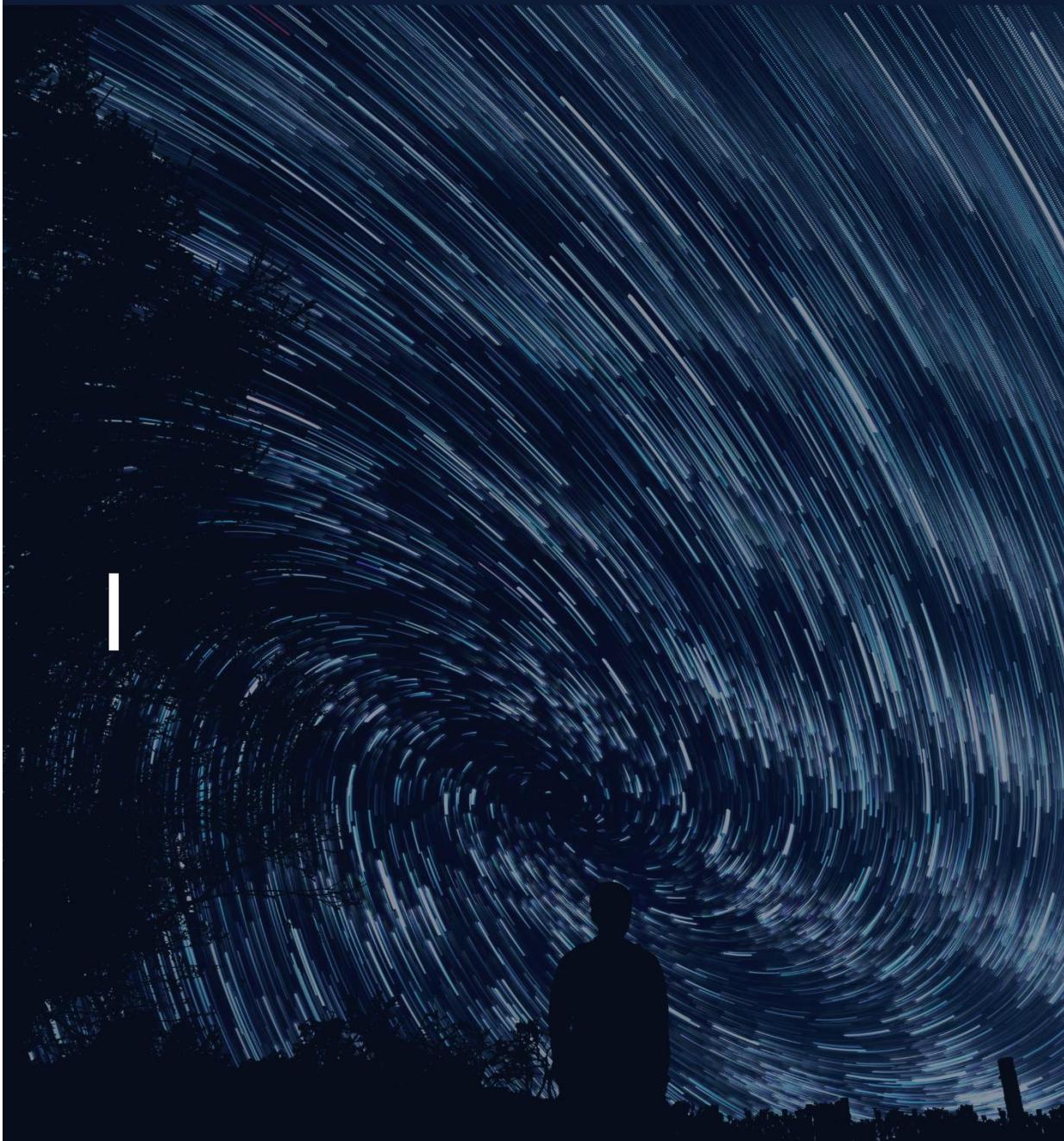


SELF PUBLISHING



# INTERDISCIPLINARY DIALOGUES

Science, Tech & Literature Integration

D PRASANTH AROKIA SAMY

APRIL 2024



## INTERDISCIPLINARY DIALOGUES

*Science, Tech and Literature Integration*

Handpicked selections identified as 'Excellent' from Article Submission from the participants as a part of a month Intercollegiate Certificate Course on **Tech-Sci Literature** organised by the PG & Research Department of English, St. Joseph's College (Autonomous),

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# INTERDISCIPLINARY DIALOGUES

## Science, Tech and Literature Integration

Editor

***Prof. D. Prasanth Arokia Samy***

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "dp", which likely stands for Prof. D. Prasanth Arokia Samy.

### **EDITOR'S NOTE**

Dear Readers,

It is with great pleasure that I present to you this captivating anthology of interdisciplinary dialogues, delving into the fusion of science, technology, and literature. Assembled through the collaborative efforts of participants from the certificate course on “**Tech-Sci Literature**” conducted by the PG & Research Department of English, St. Joseph’s College (Autonomous) in the month of February 2024. This volume represents a tapestry of diverse viewpoints and scholarly analyses that shed light on the interconnectedness of these seemingly disparate realms.

Each of the 26-research papers within this collection offers a distinctive perspective on the intricate relationships between science, technology, and literature. A hallmark of this compilation is its emphasis on fostering dialogue and collaboration across disciplinary boundaries. By uniting scholars and practitioners from varied backgrounds, we have cultivated a fertile ground for the exchange of ideas that transcends the confines of individual fields. Through this interdisciplinary approach, we not only gain fresh insights into familiar subjects but also uncover novel connections and possibilities that enrich our collective intellectual landscape.

The chapters in this collection are organized thematically to facilitate a comprehensive exploration of the intersections between science, technology, and literature. The first chapter, “Technological Advancements and Societal Implications,” delves into the evolving relationship between humanity and technology, examining its impact on society through various lenses such as entertainment, literature, and environmental concerns. Following this, the second chapter, “Artificial Intelligence and Post-Humanism,” investigates the implications of artificial intelligence on human existence, touching upon themes of identity, consciousness, and the potential for technological singularity.

The third chapter, “Mythological Connections and Modern Interpretations,” bridges ancient mythology with contemporary technological advancements, exploring how cultural narratives inform our understanding of AI and other scientific phenomena. Finally, the fourth chapter, “Exploration of Scientific Themes and Speculative Realities in Science Fiction,” delves into the speculative realms of science fiction, analyzing narratives that envision both apocalyptic scenarios and utopian futures while unraveling the complex relationship between science, literature, and the human imagination. Through these thematic divisions, readers are invited to embark on an interdisciplinary journey that illuminates the multifaceted dialogues surrounding science, technology, and literature in our modern age.

As the editor, I extend my heartfelt appreciation to all the participants of the Certificate Course whose dedication and intellectual curiosity have brought this project to fruition. I am continually inspired by your passion for interdisciplinary exploration and your unwavering commitment to expanding the horizons of knowledge. It is my sincere hope that this anthology will ignite further dialogue, inspire future collaborations, and contribute to the ongoing integration of science, technology, and literature.

*Warm regards,*

**Prasanth Arokia Samy D**

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I

***Technological Advancements and Societal  
Implications***

# **The Progression of Technology in Superhero Movies – Entertainment, Prophecy, Invention**

**Dr. Theresa Thomas**

## **Abstract**

Hollywood Superhero movies may be broadly classified under sci-fi movies, considering the characteristics of the genre that these movies rely on. The major features of such movies that this paper looks at are the nature of the heroes, the technology they use, the scale and settings of their actions and the enduring theme of the conflict between good and evil. The sci fi narratives taken into consideration start with Marvel Comics, the highly popular movie versions of the Space Opera series Star Wars and Star Trek, and the more recent two parts of Avengers -- Infinity Wars and Endgame. While a brief overview of the innovative technology introduced in these movies and their subsequent translation into reality is given, the novel techniques employed to film them and their permeation into the movie industry is also touched upon.

**Key Words:** Superhero movies, sci fi, technology, innovation

Marvel Comics, popular from the 1960s onwards, was an American Comic Book Publisher which later grew into the media and entertainment company Marvel Entertainment, a subsidiary of the Disney Company, headquartered in New York City. Tracing the evolution of the stories and heroes of Marvel Comics and the movies based on them, is interesting in that it points to the projected and prophetic developments in technology. In this context it is also possible to explore the same phenomena in other hugely popular science fantasy movies/ space operas, namely, Star Wars and Star Trek.

All these movies have a huge fan following, a fan base spreading from childhood, through teenage into adulthood. While they are some of the most expensive movies ever made, they have also been all-time top grossers of Hollywood.

This paper attempts to outline some of the technological innovations introduced in Space Operas/ Superhero movies which have later been translated into reality. It also mentions some of the techniques of movie making that developed out of the necessities of creating the movies. Technology becomes a focal point in taking the plot forward and plays a crucial role in the resolution of it.

The series Star Trek was aired from 1966 to 1969, though the movie appeared later, in 1979. It is widely accepted that many of the technology predictions of Star Trek have become common place in the contemporary world. Some of them include tablet computers, tricorders, wearable and voice interface communicators, Bluetooth headsets, GPS, biometric tracking, portable memory, automatic doors, big screen displays and teleconferencing (Keat Looi).

Similarly, on the same lines, Star Wars (1977) was a space opera/ fantasy movie series that held an entire generation in spell. Robin Oglesby enumerates some of the technology used in Star Wars, which have had an enormous impact on our world. He reminds us that the application of Artificial Intelligence and computers which are ubiquitous now, were still burgeoning technology in the 1970s. Star Wars also has the credit for developing the motion-control camera system, a technology that uses computers and mechanical camera to capture precision movements. The emergence of 3D animation lent realism and depth to the visual experience, which was used in a more expert manner by Spielberg in Jurassic Park and went on to be widely used in cinema and television. 3D technology proved to be a boon in the medical world, while holographic transmission depicted in Star Wars is now useful in interactive communication and in the field of education.

An example of the exciting breakthrough in the use of AI by Marvel to recreate human faces on digital characters is Computer Generated Imagery (CGI). Through this technology, even the minutest facial features and expressions are captured to be transformed onto digital faces. This was used to create the facial expressions of Thanos, in both the Avengers movies (Winfrey).

Though there have been similarities between the stories and characters created by Marvel and Disney, Marvel branched off from Disney in the 20th century only to be bought back again in 2009. In its first decades, the stories told by Marvel Comics were wildly imaginative, but in the latter decades of the 20th century, we see them inspired by a scientific imagination that envisions possible technological revolutions and possibilities in future. They are based loosely on imaginary possibilities that help to explore speculative ideas of progress from the advances made so far. It is revealing to trace how these works reflect the societal attitudes, fears, and aspirations towards science and technology. They are propelled by the perpetual theme of the eternal conflict between good and evil and is resolved by the triumph of good, though at a heavy cost.

These movies speculate on revolutionary technology but also muse on the broader implications of scientific discovery on societal transformation. Apart from the imaginative technology portrayed in the movies, producing a Sci-Fi movie or animation involves the use of innovative technology which can then spread over different spheres of our life.

The series of comics that developed into films under the banner of Marvel Cinematic Universe, unveiled in 1961, was a response to the rapidly growing interest in superhero books. Jack Goodman commissioned writers Lee and artist Kirby to create the Fantastic Four (Encyclopaedia Britannica). In the first release itself readers were introduced to a revolutionary change, that is a super heroic setting that was rooted in the real world. A major

change it brought in was the introduction of human superheroes living in American cities. Their universe was made more natural in that they interacted with one another, whether in a friendly or hostile manner, as in real life. This popular and exciting practice continued with a host of other superhero characters introduced by Marvel Comics during the early 1960s, including Spider-Man, the Incredible Hulk, and the X-Men. Lee wrote the majority of Marvel's books during that time, and Jack Kirby and Steve Ditko were the most important and influential artists (Encyclopaedia Britannica).

Spiderman was a successful launch of an ordinary character who turns superhero. This realistic portrayal attracted more than child readers. Spiderman, in fact, remains the most popular and loved superhero.

The screen adaptations of the comics encompass large spatial dimensions, parallel universes and uninhabited planets, across which the superheroes teleport, at times through time travel. The realism in these stories included contemporary issues such as race riots, environment and use of drugs while suggesting futuristic advancements of science fiction.

Cyborg characters people these universes whereby strength and intelligence can be achieved, enhanced by cybernetic implants, radiations such as energy shields, (which have prompted researchers in the 21st century to explore its feasibility), devices and objects (eg. Infinity stones) but surprisingly, death is possible, reinforcing an impression of the real.

However, it is not only engineering technology that is made use of in contemporary science fiction. Interestingly, the 2016 Marvel movie Captain America: Civil War depicts an assassin whose abilities are enhanced through brainwashing in a bid to create a character who is an amalgam of two personalities. There is also a reference to brainwashed soldiers kept in cryogenic stasis.

The two most popular recent movies of epic proportions are *Avengers: Infinity War* (2018) and its direct sequel *Avengers: Endgame* (2019), one of the most expensive films to be made, which follow advancements in scientific technology. For instance, in the 2008 *Iron Man* movie his suit has a limited level of AI. In the series of movies, Ironman's armour is an epitome of mechanical precision. In fact, one major spectacle that thrilled his fans was the way his armour perfectly clicked into position, a process that took a few minutes in the early movies, but came down to seconds in the later ones. *Iron Man* creates a personal arc reactor to generate energy for an electromagnet to keep shrapnel away from his heart. In the 2018 movie, *Iron Man* uses a nanotechnology-based armour. We see the amazing progression of *Iron man*'s suit-up technology as the series of movies progress. Clearly, in these movies, technology often serves as a narrative device, driving the plot forward and shaping the world in which characters live.

One of the factors that attracts millions of fans to these movies must be the absolute brilliance of imagination that projects technological innovations which embody speed and efficiency, facilities that human beings always wish existed. Technology lends power on gigantic proportions, that enable us to overcome human limitations. Superhero movies also offer the vicarious satisfaction, of seeing vice defeated through the joint efforts of variously abled heroes, on a grand scale.

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## **Virtual worlds and internet culture: An Exploration of *Virtually True* by**

**Paul Stewart**

**Rekkani Raveendran**

### **Abstract**

The emergence of digital technology has transformed the literary landscape, giving rise to narratives that blur the lines between reality and virtuality. This research paper explores the portrayal of virtual reality, augmented reality and internet culture in the short story *Virtually True* by Paul Stewart. One potential limitation in this story is the reliance on speculative elements within the narrative which are not explained with scientific accuracy. This research aims to provide a deeper understanding of the complex relationship between literature and portrayal of speculations in the usage of technology. The research also traces the ways in which virtual reality shapes the experiences, perceptions, and interactions of the characters in the digital realm, by exploring how digital immersion affects the lives of individuals and challenges conventional view of reality. This research also sheds light on how the usage of virtual reality in video games interfere with the natural environment and how the users of such high technology are viewed by the non-users, by exploring the psychological aspects of the characters.

**Key words:** Augmented reality, Digital immersion, Internet culture, Speculations, Virtual reality

Virtual reality is a simulated computer-generated environment which possess aspects of real-life environment, scenes and objects that makes its users feel engrossed in that virtual environment as if it were true. “To simulate and generate virtual experiences, developers often build a computer model, also known as ‘virtual worlds’ or ‘virtual environments (VE)’ which are, for instance, spatially organized computational objects (aptly called the virtual

objects), presented to the user through various sensory display systems such as the monitor, sound speakers, and force feedback devices.” (Kim 3) Virtual reality is usually used in video games, medicinal therapy, interactive education and other disciplines. It is mainly used to mimic or understand the reactions and reception of human beings in an alienated situation. In the digital age, virtual reality, augmented reality, and internet culture have become prominent aspects of society and these aspects have found their way into literature as well.

The phrase ‘Unless you are in my shoes’ is literally taken for a test with the usage of virtual reality technologies. Users get to experience situations that which they could never experience before hand in natural reality. “One important component of a successful VR system is the provision of interaction, to allow the user not just to feel a certain sensation, but also to change and affect the virtual world in some way.” (Kim 3) Imagine playing a game where the user has to take down hundred zombies to save their family from an infected mansion, or instances where the user is expected to win a war powered by tanks, bombs and machine guns; such scenarios are not possible in reality and hence human beings do not have prior experience to this. However, with virtual reality, these out of the world scenarios are within the reach of users who get to experience these situations in real time.

Gaming is often considered a negative activity. People perceive gaming mainly as a waste of time and money or as unhealthy obsession with virtuality.

Most of us view video games as diverting stress-relievers or high-tech babysitters at best. At worst, they’re mindless, socially isolating incubators of violence and depravity. And gamers? They’re pasty, overweight, awkward young men whose only successful relationships are with PCs and Xboxes. Our dominant cultural view is that nothing in the realm of gaming offers anything positive beyond entertainment—and even that’s questionable. (Griffiths)

*Virtually True* by Paul Stewart is a short story that highlights the world of virtual reality and how it affects the characters engaged in it through video games. The story takes us through the different realities of technology, namely, virtual reality and augmented reality, internet culture, digital immersion and its negative impact on the users. The premise of the story is based on the lives of two teenage boys, whose lives get entangled and connected through the video games. The story also portrays the blurring lines between natural reality and virtual reality.

The story begins with the narrator talking about a boy he met not in reality but in virtual space, that is, through the video games. The narrator is shocked to find that the boy, names Sebastian Shultz, who he had been interacting with in the past month was actually in coma. “Sebastian Shultz, the boy I’d got to know so well recently, had apparently been in a coma for all that time.” (Stewart) Sebastian Shultz, a character the narrator met in an online game is actually a real-life person. This revelation shocks the narrator, who wonders how a real-life human being found his way into the video games as one of the characters of the play.

This aspect of the story brings out the blurring line between natural or physical reality and virtual reality. Virtuality is defined as a system “Virtual Reality (VR) is a field of study that aims to create a system that provides a synthetic experience for its user(s). The experience is dubbed synthetic, illusory, or virtual because the sensory stimulation to the user is simulated and generated by the system” (Kim 3). Augmented reality (AR) is defined as “an overlay of information or virtual objects into the real world, allowing a reality where virtual objects seem to coexist in the same space with the real world. Augmented reality requires a trigger to activate an augmentation (a superimposition of 3D material)” (Maas and Hughes). Hence, Virtual reality and augmented reality can be said to be an experience of artificial or synthetic world, created using advanced cyber space and computer technology.

Video games have long employed virtual reality in their gaming modes to provide users with a realistic experience. They make affiliations and partnerships with real life corporations to provide a hundred percent reality like virtual world. In this story he implications of virtual reality is seen in the narrator's behavior, where he completes a task as if using real life facilities. "As I burst in through the swing doors of the saloon, everyone went silent and glared at me. I strode over to the bar. 'Sarsaparilla!' I said and a glass of fizzy red stuff came sliding along the bar towards me. As I took a sip, I heard a loud crash. I spun round." This behavior will not be perceived normal by nonusers who don't have the slightest clue as to what is going on.

At this point in the story, the author brings out the character, Sebastian Shultz, who is a real life human. On Shultz's request the narrator tries various conquests within multiple games without probing anything to Shultz who acts as an instructor. The narrator, who has no idea of who Shultz really is, or why he and Shultz were battling various conquests, complies to help the boy through the virtual landscape. Shultz communicated to the narrator with the elements of the video game like the character Avatar images, through which he passed information. "At the top was a picture of the second sheriff. This time though, he was wearing jeans and a sweatshirt. Printed over the bottom was a message. I'M STUCK. PLEASE HELP TO RETRIEVE ME. TRY 'DRAGONQUEST'. Sebastian Shultz" (Stewart).

The narrator somehow manages to conquer the conquests and save Sebastian after few failed attempts in multiple games. Finally, toward the end of the story, the narrator hears from Shultz again through another message, where Shultz thanks the narrator for saving his life by guiding him through the virtual landscape, waking him up from his coma. The narrator learns that Shultz was actually playing one of his psycho drive game in his PC during the time of the accident and that the computer was lost at the scene of the accident, which the narrator and his father bought at the science fair.

The author portrays internet culture through the characters of the narrator (Michael) and Shultz and even the narrator's father who does not appear in the story, to an extent. Internet culture is portrayed by themes of connectivity, escapism, and the impact of technology on human experiences. Michael and his interest in interactive games with psycho drive features reflects a fascination of the techno users with digital immersion.

Digital immersion refers to the merger of the physical world with the digital world of data. It comes in three main forms. The first involves technologies like virtual reality (VR), augmented reality (AR), mixed reality (MR), and extended reality (XR), all of which create an altered or enhanced environment. (Ltd, Arm)

The story has its own limitation with the aspect of Shultz getting trapped in the virtual environment. Though the author explains the cause to being active in the psycho drive game during the accident, the merit of this mental stagnation and trap within a virtual environment is questionable and it depicts how the story relies on speculative elements. It gives rise to philosophical question that seeks to address the issues with reality and beyond reality.

There are regions in the brain where the visual information is processed, that are responsible for sensing shadow, disparity, and motion. All of these cues are known to be more or less additive (the more cues there are, the richer the depth information is), and can be used effectively to provide the sense of depth in a virtual environment.

(Kim 81)

In conclusion, the author addresses both the negative and positive implications of technology, with a special focus mainly on virtual reality, of techno-driven people, who use this technology as means of escapism, therapy, cure or remedy. Sebastian who becomes trapped in a virtual world after an accident and Michael, the narrator, who helps Sebastian wake up from his coma are both representation of the psychology of teenagers who succumb

to the advancements of technology. The story exposes how virtual reality can provide immersive visualization and enable users to experience and interact with the futuristic society or the past in real-time. The story sheds light on the potential benefits and risks associated with virtual reality and raises questions about the impact of these technologies on personal identity, relationships, and society as a whole.

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# Science Fiction's Crystal Ball on Real Technological Progress and Societal Evolution

**Jenifer Navis**

## Abstract

This research delves into the impact of science fiction on real-world innovation and social development. The study analyses classic and contemporary science fiction works alongside present and future technological trends to identify instances where fictional portrayals have foreshadowed scientific breakthroughs or influenced public attitudes towards emerging technologies. It also explores the socio-cultural impact of science fiction, examining how futuristic narratives have sparked debates on topics such as artificial intelligence, space exploration and virtual reality. The paper aims to identify how science fiction has acted as a predictive force, shaping the trajectories of social and technological development.

**Keywords:** technology, science fiction, futuristic inventions, social development, robotics

Science Fiction is a genre that illuminates the limitless possibilities of human imagination, projecting its visionary brilliance across the vast expanse of what could be. From Mary Shelly's legendary novel 'Frankenstein', which explores the creation of life through science, to the cutting-edge innovations of contemporary works like Chinese author Hai Ya's 'The Space-Time Painter'<sup>1</sup>, SF has evolved as an integral part of the literary canon, exploring the boundaries of human ingenuity and pushing the limits of what we can conceive. With its boundless potential for creativity and exploration, SF is a testament to the power of human imagination and its capacity for boundless discovery. It revolves around the portrayal of

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<sup>1</sup> 'The Space-Time Painter' authored by Hai Ya, won the Hugo Award for the Best Novelette at the 81<sup>st</sup> World Science Fiction Convention (WorldCon), China, 2024.

imagined scientific and technological advancements. It often delves into possible futures or alternative realities that could arise from applying these advancements (Beukes et al., 2017; Coates and Jennifer, 1992; Ghiglione, 2010).

In the present age, what was once considered just a figment of imagination in fiction, such as artificial intelligence, space exploration, and robotics, have become tangible realities that significantly influence and shape our world. This remarkable convergence of imagination and innovation naturally raises a thought-provoking question: to what extent does the science fiction genre foresee real technological advancements and societal evolution?

This research paper argues that SF literature has played a vital role in shaping our technological future. SF has not only acted as a mirror that reflects the societal and technological changes of our times but also has a prescient and influential impact on the trajectory of technological advancement. The paper contends that science fiction has served as a force that has helped us to imagine new possibilities while also predicting the contours of our future in ways that have influenced scientific research and development. Through a comprehensive examination of the profound impact of these tales, this study seeks to contribute to a deeper understanding of how science fiction has influenced and continues to influence our world, thereby establishing the genre as a potent ‘crystal ball’ that not only envisions the future but actively contributes to its manifestation.

Some of the most iconic franchises include ‘Star Trek’<sup>2</sup>, ‘Star Wars’<sup>3</sup>, and ‘The Matrix’<sup>4</sup>, which have attained a cult following and have become global cultural phenomena.

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<sup>2</sup> A highly popular American TV series aired from 1966 to 1969.

<sup>3</sup> A multimedia franchise created by George Lucas in 1977 that includes movies, novels, comics, video games, toys, television series, and books.

<sup>4</sup> A media franchise from the United States that belongs to the cyberpunk genre. It includes four feature films.

These franchises have helped embed SF themes and imagery in people's collective consciousness worldwide and continue to inspire a new generation of SF enthusiasts. The communicators featured in the television series 'Star Trek' are strikingly similar to contemporary smartphones, highlighting how SF has served as a precursor to real-life technological advancements. Martin Cooper, the inventor of the Cellular phone<sup>5</sup>, stated that Captain Kirk's gold flip communicator, a character from 'Star Trek', motivated him to invent the world's first mobile phone.

SF is much more than just entertainment. It goes beyond technological imagination and delves deep into societal issues and ethical dilemmas, which reflect technology's impact on humanity. Works like 'Blade Runner'<sup>6</sup> and 'Black Mirror'<sup>7</sup> explore the ethical ramifications of advancements such as Artificial Intelligence and immersive technologies, fostering critical conversations about the responsible development and use of emerging technologies. These works provide a platform for discourse on the impact of technology on humanity, raising essential questions about the direction we want to take as a society. Similarly, the dystopian narrative in 'The Matrix' prompts discussions on the ethical implications of virtual realities and the potential consequences of a technologically dominated future. Such works are thought-provoking and encourage us to think critically about the role of technology in our lives and its impact on our society.

Throughout history, SF has often been ahead of its time in predicting technological advancements. Some of the SF's most influential and celebrated works have accurately

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<sup>5</sup> In 1973, Motorola engineers Martin Cooper and John F. Mitchell demonstrated the first handheld cellular phone, the DynaTAC 8000X. Cooper is highly regarded as the father of the cellular phone.

<sup>6</sup> An American science fiction franchise originating from Philip K. Dick's 1968 novel, 'Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep?'

<sup>7</sup> A science fiction anthology series created by Charlie Brooker from the United Kingdom.

foreshadowed technological developments that have since become a reality. For example, Jules Verne's '20,000 Leagues Under the Sea' was published in 1870 and featured a submarine, a groundbreaking invention. This visionary work influenced naval technology and ultimately helped shape the development of actual submarines. Similarly, Arthur C. Clarke's '2001: A Space Odyssey'<sup>8</sup> predicted the advent of tablets and space travel, which we now use daily and continue to explore.

The impact of SF on public perception of technological advancements has been a topic of scrutiny for researchers. While SF literature has the potential to generate insightful discussions and predictions about the impact of technology on society, it is important to note that predictions' accuracy varies across SF sub-genres. While space exploration themes have seen some accurate predictions, such as the moon landings, aspects like interstellar travel remain speculative and unproven. Michael Crichton's 'Jurassic Park'<sup>9</sup> presents a rather simplistic view of genetic engineering, which may influence public perception without adequately addressing the intricate ethical considerations surrounding such technologies. On the other hand, dystopian works such as Margaret Atwood's 'The Handmaid's Tale'<sup>10</sup> may portray a negative bias, overlooking the positive impacts of technological advancements on social development. Similarly, Aldous Huxley's 'Brave New World'<sup>11</sup> and Isaac Asimov's early Foundation series may overlook the importance of incremental progress, hindering a realistic understanding of how societal evolution typically unfolds. Isaac Asimov's

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<sup>8</sup> A 1968 film directed by Stanley Kubrick and written by Arthur C. Clarke.

<sup>9</sup> A science-fiction film series that explores the consequences of cloning dinosaurs and bringing them back in the present day. The franchise includes six films and is based on two novels by American author Michael Crichton.

<sup>10</sup> A renowned dystopian novel written by Canadian author Margaret Atwood, first published in 1985.

<sup>11</sup> A science fiction dystopian novel that was first published in 1932.

Foundation series<sup>12</sup> may contribute to a skewed perspective on societal development, ignoring diverse cultural influences.

In science fiction, the portrayal of technology is often accompanied by cautionary tales highlighting its unchecked advancement's potential negative consequences. These narratives tend to focus on dystopian societies, loss of privacy, environmental degradation, and ethical dilemmas that could arise from the dehumanizing effects of technology and societal upheavals. As such, they serve as a warning to society about the potential risks of rapid technological advancement. Science fiction serves as a source of inspiration for technological advancements for some, while others view it as a warning for ethical implications. It also acts as a mirror, reflecting contemporary issues and societal debates on the impact of technology. Diversity in science fiction narratives adds complexity, highlighting how different perspectives can shape the portrayal of technological progress. Furthermore, fiction reflects societal anxieties and stimulates public discourse, helping the public understand complex scientific concepts and encouraging discussions on ethical implications.

SF delves into societal structures, governance and cultural norms, exploring the consequences of oppressive governance and contributing to discussions on surveillance and authoritarianism. Dystopian narratives such as George Orwell's '1984'<sup>13</sup> and Aldous Huxley's 'Brave New World' have been instrumental in shaping contemporary debates on power dynamics and societal control. Ursula K Le Guin's 'The Left Hand Darkness',<sup>14</sup> has challenged gender norms and advocated for societal changes, making science fiction a

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<sup>12</sup> A science fiction trilogy composed of short stories and novellas. It was initially published in 1942-1950 and later republished in three collections in 1951-1953.

<sup>13</sup> a dystopian novel and cautionary tale published in 1949.

<sup>14</sup> A science fiction novel published in 1969.

powerful tool for shaping cultural discourse and promoting positive change. Groundbreaking concepts like geostationary satellites, first proposed by Arthur C Clarke in 1945 in his story ‘Wireless World’, have become the foundation for modern satellites. Similarly, Neal Stephenson’s ‘Snow Crash’<sup>15</sup> introduced the idea of augmented reality, which has now become a reality as technological capabilities have advanced. Ultimately, SF is an important tool in navigating the rapidly changing technological landscape.

It can be intriguing and thought-provoking to compare speculative scenarios depicted in science fiction with actual technological advancements and societal developments in the real world. This research paper explores such comparisons, which sheds light on how our imaginations influence and are influenced by our world and how SF can serve as a powerful tool for exploring the possibilities and limitations of human ingenuity.

### **Autocar in ‘The Revolt of Pedestrians’ by David H Keller (1928) and Uni One by Honda (2023)**

‘The Revolt of Pedestrians’ is a poignant and satirical story set in a futuristic society where automated technology, particularly Autocar, has replaced traditional human activities. The protagonist, Leonard Mead, is the last remaining pedestrian in a world dominated by automated vehicles, highlighting society’s aversion to individualism and the outdated practice of walking. While the Autocar represents the height of efficiency and convenience, it also embodies the loss of personal freedom and depth of human experience. On the other hand, Honda, a leading automobile manufacturer, recently introduced a novel transportation device named Uni One<sup>16</sup>, resembling a compact plastic chair. This device is a modern-day rendition

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<sup>15</sup> A science fiction novel published in 1992.

<sup>16</sup> Uni One was unveiled at the Tokyo Mobility Show in October 2023.

of the Autocar depicted in the classic literary work, 'The Revolt of Pedestrians'. It is intended to provide a convenient mode of transportation for individuals in large areas such as airports, shopping malls, and university campuses, where walking long distances can be strenuous and exhausting. With this unique design and practical functionality, the Honda Uni One is poised to revolutionise how people move around in public places.

**Igloo Inflatable Moon Habitat from 'A Fall of Moondust' by Arthur C Clarke (1961) and 'Inflatable Moon Base' designed by Hassel for European Space Agency (ESA) (2024)**

"This was one of the latest models—a Goodyear Mark Twenty—and it could sustain six men for an indefinite period, as long as they were supplied with power, water, food and oxygen. The igloo would provide everything else—even entertainment, for it had a built-in microlibrary of books, music and video. This was no extravagant luxury, though the auditors queried it with great regularity. In space, boredom could be a killer. It might take longer than say, a leak in an airline—but it could be just as effective, and was sometimes much messier." (Clarke 135). The novel features incredible technological advancements, including inflatable moon houses for human habitation. Interestingly, this book was published eight years before the first moon landing took place. On the other hand, architecture studio Hassell has designed Lunar Habitat Master Plan, a scalable system of inflatable pods for the European Space Agency's Discovery program, which can house up to 144 people. These pods feature residential spaces, arenas, restaurants, and even large greenhouses to support sustainable living in space. Hassell has described the Lunar Habitat Master Plan as the crucial next step in the ongoing endeavour to establish the very first permanent human settlement on the moon.

## Palm lock from ‘Dune’ by Frank Herbert (1965) and Phillips Smart Palm Recognition

### Smart Deadbolt (2024)

“Jessica put a hand on the rail, began to climb. The rail felt cold under her sliding palm. She stopped at the door, saw it had no handle, but there was a faint depression on the surface of it where a handle should have been. Surely not a palm lock, she told herself. A palm lock must be keyed to one individual’s hand shape and palm lines.” (Herbert 80). In the novel, the author describes a scene where Jessica halts in front of a door and realises that there is no visible door handle. She quickly deduces that it is a palm lock, which is activated by the unique shape of an individual’s hand and the lines on it. Interestingly, Phillips has recently developed a cutting-edge smart deadbolt that functions similarly to the ‘palm lock’ in “Dune”. This state-of-the-art lock system can detect and recognise the user’s handprint, thus unlocking the door without needing a physical key.

By analysing three significant examples, the paper reveals the profound impact of science fiction on the evolution of human progress.

The first case study examines David H Keller’s ‘The Revolt of Pedestrians’ and Honda’s Uni One, drawing attention to how futuristic stories can influence the development of practical, personalised transportation solutions. The comparison between Keller’s literary vision and Honda’s real-world product underlines the powerful influence of imagination on creating tangible innovations.

Moving on to Arthur C. Clarke’s ‘A Fall of Moondust’ and Hassell’s Lunar Habitat Master Plan, the paper showcases the visionary potential of speculative fiction in inspiring the design of inflatable habitats for sustainable living in space. The exploration of these works emphasizes the transformative power of imaginative narratives, which can spark real-world solutions to tackle the challenges of space exploration and living.

Finally, the analysis of Frank Herbert's 'Dune' and Phillips' Smart Palm Recognition Smart Deadbolt reveals the genre's impact on developing cutting-edge security technologies. By examining the parallels between Herbert's depiction of security measures and Phillips' real-world innovation, the paper highlights how science fiction can inspire tangible solutions to society's security needs.

The research presented here delves into the intricate relationship between science fiction (SF) and technological innovation in the real world, exploring the genre's multi-dimensional impact on societal development. The analysis focuses on the predictive power of iconic SF works such as '20,000 Leagues Under the Sea,' '2001: A Space Odyssey' and 'Dune', prompting reflection on the extent to which SF serves as a visionary guide for inventors and innovators. The study also highlights SF's influence on public perception, emphasizing the varying accuracy of predictions across sub-genres and raising crucial questions about the genre's role in shaping societal attitudes towards emerging technologies.

Furthermore, the research examines how SF can delve into ethical dilemmas and societal reflections, positioning the genre as a critical tool for fostering discussions on responsible technological development. Works such as 'Blade Runner', 'Black Mirror', '1984' and 'Brave New World', are analyzed to underscore SF's ability to explore such themes. The paper's case studies provide concrete examples of how SF has influenced actual innovations, including 'The Revolt of Pedestrians' and Honda's Uni One, 'A Fall of Moondust' and Hassell's Lunar Habitat Master Plan, and 'Dune' and Phillips' Smart Palm Recognition Smart Deadbolt. These case studies reinforce the argument that SF actively contributes to technological and societal evolution.

In conclusion, this research highlights the symbiotic relationship between speculative fiction and real-world progress, encouraging further exploration of SF's profound impact on shaping the trajectory of human progress and technological landscapes.

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# Technostalgia's Shadow: Exploring Environmental Catastrophe in Dystopian Science Fiction through James Dashner's *Maze Runner* Series

**Dr. Jenosha Prislin S**

## Abstract

This research focuses on the intricate relationship between technostalgia and the portrayal of environmental catastrophe in dystopian science fiction, with a specific focus on James Dashner's acclaimed 'Maze Runner' series. Technostalgia, a longing for the past intertwined with the advancement of technology, serves as a metaphorical backdrop, casting a shadow over the characters and settings within the dystopian world. Through an analysis of Dashner's series, this study unveils the depiction of environmental collapse that precipitated the dystopian setting. The research aims to provide a comprehensive exploration of the complex interplay between technology, nature, and the repercussions of environmental destruction in dystopian narratives. By examining the thematic elements present in the 'Maze Runner' series, this study offers valuable insights into how dystopian science fiction literature reflects contemporary anxieties surrounding ecological degradation and the loss of nature.

**Key Words:** Technostalgia, Environmental Catastrophe, Dystopian Science Fiction, James Dashner, "Maze Runner" Series

This study explores the concept of technostalgia and its connection to the representation of environmental catastrophe in dystopian science fiction. James Dashner's *Maze Runner* series serves as a case study. The title, "Technostalgia's Shadow," metaphorically represents the characters' longing for a past where technology and nature co-existed peacefully, a yearning that casts a shadow over the present dystopian world. The research investigates how the series portrays the environmental catastrophe that led to this dystopia. By analyzing the characters' limited connection to nature, their dependence on

technology for survival, and the harshness of the environment (the Scorch), the study examines how technostalgia shapes the characters' experiences and the overall narrative. This research delves into the complex relationship between technology, nature and the consequences of environmental destruction within the framework of dystopian fiction.

Dystopian science fiction is a subgenre of science fiction that presents an imagined society characterized by oppressive societal control, dehumanization, and often a grim or bleak outlook on the future. These narratives typically explore themes such as totalitarianism, surveillance, environmental degradation, and social inequality. In George Orwell's *1984*, a totalitarian state controls every aspect of life. Aldous Huxley's *Brave New World* features a society engineered for happiness but devoid of free will. Ray Bradbury's *Fahrenheit 451* depicts a future where knowledge is outlawed and books are burned. Margaret Atwood's *The Handmaid's Tale* portrays a society with a rigid social hierarchy that oppresses women. These are just a few examples of how dystopian science fiction uses bleak futures to explore themes of social control, environmental degradation, and the loss of humanity.

The *Maze Runner* series by James Dashner is a young adult dystopian science fiction saga, consists of three books *The Maze Runner* (2009), *The Scorch Trail* (2010) and *The Death Cure* (2011). The story takes place in a post-apocalyptic world ravaged by an event known as "The Flare." The surviving population lives in a self-contained environment called the Glade, surrounded by a massive, ever-changing Maze. Thomas, the protagonist, a teenager who wakes up inside the Glade with no memories of his past. The Gladers are a group of boys trapped within the Glade, each with a specific role in maintaining order and survival. WICKED is a mysterious organization that controls the Glade and seems to hold the key to escaping the Maze and understanding the outside world. Their motives are shrouded in secrecy.

The story follows Thomas as he tries to unravel the mysteries of the Glade and the Maze. As the series progresses, the characters uncover shocking truths about WICKED, the purpose of the Maze, and the true nature of the world outside. *The Scorch Trials* and *The Death Cure* dwell deeper into the mystery of the Flare and WICKED's true goals. The narratives explore themes of loyalty, betrayal, and the cost of survival. While there's a sense of hope for a cure, it comes at a heavy price and leaves unanswered questions about the future.

The dystopian setting is seen in the story when *The Scorch Trials* begins in a ruined world, likely ravaged by a solar flare causing an environmental catastrophe. The characters have no memories of the world before the “Glades”, which is a giant maze the Gladers are trapped in. Society is controlled by a mysterious organization called WICKED, who may or may not be acting in the best interests of humanity.

The science fiction elements are seen as the existence of the Glade itself is a technological marvel. It's a giant, self-moving maze with deadly creatures, suggesting advanced technology beyond the characters' comprehension. The characters are referred to as “Gladers,” hinting at some kind of genetic engineering or manipulation that may be part of WICKED's experiments. The characters are plagued by a deadly disease called the “Flare,” which suggests a biological science fiction element.

Technostalgia is a concept that blends technological advancement with a sense of longing for the past. It explores our complicated relationship with technology and how it can sometimes fuel a desire for a simpler time, even if that time was not necessarily simpler. Technostalgia explores the feeling of missing aspects of the past while acknowledging the advancements and conveniences brought by technology. It's a bittersweet emotion, recognizing the benefits of the present while yearning for a time when technology was not so

prominent or was not used in a specific way. Technostalgia can sometimes be a critique of modern technology. It highlights a concern that our increasing reliance on technology might be causing a disconnect from real-world experiences, human interaction or the natural world. By understanding technostalgia, we can gain a deeper understanding of our connection to technology and how it shapes our experiences and desires. Yvon Chouinard, an American businessman and environmentalist states that, “The curious paradox is that the more advanced our technology, the more nostalgic we become for a simpler time” (377).

*Maze Runner* series by James Dashner offers a compelling exploration of technostalgia and the loss of nature within a dystopian science fiction setting. Technostalgia is used to address the characters longing to understand their past and accept the technological advancements for their survival. Even though they are in a completely broken earth they tend to believe in a hopeful future.

The novel, *The Maze Runner* begins with the Gladers have no memories of the world before the Glade. Their only frame of reference is the artificial environment they inhabit. This lack of knowledge creates a sense of longing for a past they cannot access, potentially a past where technology and nature co-existed more harmoniously. The Gladers rely on WICKED’s technology for survival – the food deliveries, the artificial environment of the Glade, and even the movements of the Maze. This dependence highlights the characters’ disconnect from nature and their inability to survive without technological intervention. WICKED, despite its questionable methods, is seen as a powerful entity that holds the key to escape. This creates a sense of awe towards their technological prowess, even if it is used for controlling purposes.

Descriptions of the Scorch paint a picture of a desolate wasteland, devoid of plant or animal life. This stark contrast to a natural world emphasizes the loss humanity has suffered. The Gladers’ restricted view of the sky symbolizes their limited connection to the natural

world. They are confined within an artificial environment, unable to experience the vastness and beauty of nature. When Thomas escapes the Glade and enters the Scorch, he's initially overwhelmed by the harshness of the environment. This emphasizes his lack of connection to nature and the challenges of surviving without technology.

The Gladers lack the skills necessary to survive in a natural environment. They are trained for combat and navigating the Maze, not for hunting, foraging or living off the land. This highlights the consequences of relying solely on technology for survival. Characters like Alby, who might be older and have some fragmented memories, occasionally express a yearning for a world beyond the Glade. This suggests a sense of nostalgia for a time when technology and nature co-existed.

In *The Maze Runner*, “Alby pointed to a large metal chute that ran from the ceiling high above them, down to a platform near the center of the Glade. ‘That’s where the Grievers come from,’ he explained. ‘Every night, they bring us food and supplies’” (Dashner, *MR* 31). This statement demonstrates the Gladers’ reliance on a mysterious technology for their basic needs. It highlights their lack of control and suggests a longing for a time when they weren’t dependent on such advanced but frightening tools.

Even Thomas, “...pictured towering buildings, bustling streets, and maybe even cars flying through the air. A world unlike anything he could imagine” (Dashner, *MR* 78). This picture showcases Thomas’s yearning for a world beyond the Glade, potentially a world where technology and nature co-existed. It suggests a romanticized view of a technological past.

In the novel, *The Scorch Trail*, “Brenda scoffed. ‘You act like you’ve never seen a machine before’” (Dashner, *ST* 12), Brenda poses this doubt because she grew up in the Scorch, reveals a contrast between the Gladers, who were raised in a controlled environment

and those who have always known the harsh reality of the outside world. It suggests the Gladers might have an idealized view of technology from a lost past.

Thomas's yearning for a world beyond the Glade, potentially a world where technology and nature co-existed, as "He (Thomas) looked around at the desolate landscape, his heart heavy. This wasn't the world he'd imagined. Where were the towering cities, the bustling crowds? The Flare had taken it all, leaving only dust and decay" (Dashner, *ST* 168). The harsh reality of the Scorch highlights the loss of a technologically advanced but presumably more balanced past.

In *The Death Cure*, Thomas "... remembered the stories of the Gladers back in the Glade, their vague, almost mythical memories of a world before the Flare, a world filled with technology and wonder" (Dashner, *DC* 73). This emphasizes the Gladers' fragmented memories and their romanticized view of a technological past. In another incident, Ava, the head of WICKED, reflects an extreme reliance on technology as the solution to environmental problems. "Ava Paige smiled coldly. 'Technology is the only answer, Thomas. It's the only way we can hope to rebuild'" (Dashner, *DC* 378). It sparks a debate about the potential dangers and limitations of technology in the face of environmental catastrophe.

*The Maze Runner* series, through its portrayal of technostalgia and the loss of nature, critiques humanity's over-reliance on technology and the potential consequences of environmental degradation. It highlights the importance of maintaining a connection with the natural world and the dangers of losing touch with our roots. The characters' yearning for a lost past, potentially a time when technology and nature co-existed more harmoniously, serves as a constant reminder of what has been lost.

However, the series doesn't wallow in despair. The characters' resilience, their fight for survival, and the glimmers of hope for a future where humanity learns from its mistakes

offer a counterpoint to the bleakness. The potential spread of the immunity in *The Death Cure* suggests a possibility of rebuilding, but one that requires a reevaluation of humanity's relationship with technology and the environment.

Technostalgia's Shadow ultimately serves as a cautionary tale. It reminds us that environmental destruction has profound consequences and that a blind faith in technology might not be the solution. By exploring these themes through the lens of dystopian science fiction, the *Maze Runner* series encourages young readers to consider the importance of environmental responsibility and the potential for a future where technology can coexist with a healthy planet.

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## **Virtual Realities and Augmented Futures: Societal Implications in Ernest Cline's *Ready Player One***

**Jinsha Jonhson**

### **Abstract**

Ernest Cline's *Ready Player One*, a novel that intertwines the realms of virtual reality (VR), augmented reality (AR), and internet culture to explore societal implications of immersive technologies. Set in a dystopian future, the narrative follows protagonist Wade Watts in the OASIS, a VR universe offering escape from reality's hardships. The book critically examines VR and AR's impact on identity, community, and the essence of reality, presenting a dual-edged vision of technology as both a utopian refuge and a source of socio-economic challenges. Cline's work, rich in 1980s and 1990s pop culture references, serves as a significant cultural artifact, reflecting on digital technology's role in shaping future societies. Key themes include escapism, the blending of digital and physical realms, and the socio-economic restructuring potential of immersive technologies, making *Ready Player One* a crucial commentary on our digital trajectory.

**Keywords:** Ernest Cline, Ready Player One, virtual reality, augmented reality, internet culture, dystopian future, societal implications, digital technology, escapism, 1980s pop culture, immersive technologies

Ernest Cline is an American novelist, spoken-word artist, and screenwriter best known for his debut novel, *Ready Player One*, published in 2011. Born on March 29, 1972, in Ashland, Ohio, Cline began his career writing and performing slam poetry before transitioning into screenwriting and novel writing. His deep affection for 1980s pop culture, alongside his interests in video games, virtual reality, and geek culture, heavily influenced the creation of *Ready Player One*.

Ernest Cline's *Ready Player One* is a seminal work that deftly encapsulates the burgeoning intersections of virtual reality (VR), augmented reality (AR), and internet culture, setting a precedent for speculative fiction's engagement with digital futures. Cline's narrative, rooted in his fascination with 1980s and 1990s pop culture, not only serves as a nostalgic homage but also as a visionary exploration of the societal implications of immersive technologies. The novel portrays the OASIS, a virtual reality universe, as a dual-edged sword—a refuge from a dystopian reality and a potential source of socio-economic restructuring. Through the protagonist, Wade Watts, Cline vividly illustrates the boundless possibilities of VR as an escapism tool and its profound impact on identity, community, and the essence of reality. Simultaneously, the subtle integration of AR technology hints at a future where digital and physical realms are seamlessly intertwined, enriching human experience yet posing new challenges. Cline's work, both a utopian vision and a cautionary tale, critically reflects on our trajectory with digital technologies, making *Ready Player One* a significant contribution to the discourse on VR, AR, and their place in our lives.

The background of writing *Ready Player One* stems from Cline's fascination with the potential of virtual reality as both an escape and a platform for adventure. He envisioned a future where humanity, grappling with environmental decay and economic collapse, turns to a vast virtual universe, the OASIS, as a refuge. Drawing on his own experiences and love for 1980s and 1990s pop culture, Cline crafted a novel that is both a nostalgic homage and a forward-looking speculative narrative. The book's exploration of virtual reality, coupled with its engaging plot and relatable protagonist, resonated with readers worldwide, making it a bestseller and cementing Cline's reputation as a significant voice in contemporary science fiction. The success of *Ready Player One* also led to its adaptation into a major motion picture directed by Steven Spielberg in 2018, further attesting to the novel's impact on both literature and popular culture. Augmented Reality (AR) overlays digital information into the real world.

Unlike VR, it does not replace the real world with a digital one but enhances it with graphics, sounds, or other data. Using devices such as smartphones, tablets, or specialized glasses, AR projects digital content onto the physical environment, allowing for interactive experiences that blend the real and the virtual. Applications of AR range from navigation aids, educational tools, and interactive gaming to innovative uses in marketing and design, enabling users to see the world around them in new and enriched ways.

Virtual Reality (VR), on the other hand, immerses users in a completely digital environment that is generated by a computer. Wearing a VR headset, users can look around, move within, and interact with a 3D world that simulates a range of environments, from realistic settings to fantastical landscapes. VR has found applications in various fields including entertainment, where it offers immersive gaming and virtual tours; education and training, providing simulations of real-world scenarios for skills development; and healthcare, for therapy and rehabilitation. VR's ability to create a sense of presence in a non-physical world opens up vast possibilities for learning, entertainment, and social interaction. In Ernest Cline's novel *Ready Player One*, the interplay of augmented reality (AR), virtual reality (VR), and internet culture is central to the narrative, offering a visionary exploration of these technologies and their impact on society. The novel is set in a dystopian future where the global population seeks refuge from the crumbling world around them in the OASIS, a massive, immersive virtual reality universe that offers an escape from the harsh realities of life.

The OASIS is the epitome of VR technology, providing a fully immersive experience that allows users to live, work, and play in a boundless digital universe. Users interact with the environment and each other through avatars, experiencing the virtual world as if it were real. The novel delves into the implications of VR as a form of escapism, its potential to create new forms of social and economic structures, and the blurred lines between digital and physical

realities. Cline vividly portrays how VR technology can transform society, offering both utopian possibilities and dystopian risks.

While the focus of *Ready Player One* is primarily on VR, the concept of AR is also present, albeit more subtly. AR technology in the novel's world enhances certain aspects of real life with digital overlays, providing information or entertainment that augments the physical world. Although not as prominently featured as VR, AR represents another layer of digital integration into daily life, hinting at a future where digital and physical realities are increasingly intertwined.

*Ready Player One* is a rich tapestry of internet culture, particularly the culture of the late 20th and early 21st centuries. The novel is steeped in references to video games, movies, music, and pop culture of the 1980s and 1990s, celebrating the nostalgia and fandoms that thrive online. The OASIS itself is a manifestation of internet culture, with its vast, interconnected virtual spaces where communities form around shared interests, identities, and objectives. The novel examines both the positive aspects of this culture, such as the sense of belonging and identity it can provide, and its darker sides, including escapism, anonymity, and the potential for isolation. Through its exploration of VR, AR, and internet culture, *Ready Player One* offers a compelling vision of future technologies and their societal implications. It raises important questions about the nature of reality, identity, and community in a world where digital and physical realms increasingly overlap, making it a significant contribution to the discourse on these technologies and their place in our lives.

In *Ready Player One*, Ernest Cline intricately weaves augmented reality (AR) and virtual reality (VR) into the fabric of the narrative, providing a profound commentary on the potential futures of these technologies. The novel's protagonist, Wade Watts, immerses himself in the OASIS, a virtual reality universe that serves as a sanctuary from the desolation of the

real world. Cline describes the OASIS as a place. This depiction of VR emphasizes its limitless potential for escapism and exploration, highlighting how it can offer solace and a sense of purpose in a dystopian reality. Unlike the more subtle presence of AR in the novel, VR is the cornerstone upon which the narrative is built, representing both the promise and peril of fully immersive digital worlds.

Moreover, the novel subtly nods to the concept of AR through its portrayal of the technology that characters use to interact with the OASIS. For instance, haptic feedback suits and visors blur the lines between the physical and digital, suggesting a form of augmented reality that enhances the virtual experience by providing sensory feedback. Though not explicitly detailed in terms of AR used outside the OASIS, these technologies hint at a world where digital augmentation could become a part of everyday life, enriching or complicating human experiences.

Cline's exploration of VR and AR in *Ready Player One* serves as a critical reflection on our current trajectory with digital technologies. The novel's vivid portrayal of the OASIS as an escape from a crumbling society serves as both a utopian vision of what VR and AR could achieve and a cautionary tale about their potential to distract from real-world issues. Through Wade's journey, Cline explores the nuanced impact of these technologies on identity, community, and reality itself, offering a compelling vision of a future where virtual and augmented realities are deeply integrated into the fabric of the human experience.

*Ready Player One* masterfully encapsulates the complexities and dualities of living in a world increasingly dominated by digital technologies, particularly through the lenses of virtual reality (VR) and augmented reality (AR). Through its engaging narrative and richly drawn virtual universe, the novel not only pays homage to the nostalgia of 1980s and 1990s pop culture but also critically examines the implications of immersive technologies on society,

identity, and reality. Cline's work stands as a significant cultural artifact, offering both a cautionary tale and a visionary exploration of the potential futures shaped by VR and AR. As these technologies continue to evolve and become more integrated into our daily lives, Ready Player One remains a poignant reflection on the human condition amidst the digital age, challenging readers to consider the true essence of reality and humanity in an increasingly virtual world.

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# **Innovation Narratives: Analyzing the Portrayal of Technology and Scientific Advancements in Literature**

**Raadhai S**

## **Abstract**

Literature has always placed a strong emphasis on innovation, expressing human curiosity about the potential benefits and drawbacks of advancements in science and technology. This article examines how science and technology are portrayed in literature, looking at how writers employ narrative devices to examine how innovation affects people, society, and the human condition. This analysis explores the intricate relationship between innovation and storytelling, illuminating the ways in which literature influences and mirrors our perception of technological development. It does this by using examples drawn from a wide variety of literary works.

**Keywords:** Innovation Narratives, Technology, Scientific Advancements, Exploration

Interdisciplinary Perspectives, Cultural Reflection

## **Introduction**

The intersection of literature and technology has long been a rich source of inquiry, providing writers with a medium for illustrating how humanity's relationship with invention has changed over time. Literature has always acted as a mirror, reflecting society's hopes, concerns, and moral quandaries around technological advancement—from classical mythology to modern science fiction. In order to better understand how writers have depicted the benefits and dangers of scientific advancement throughout history, this essay will explore the rich tapestry of innovation narratives in literature.

Innovation has always been a driving force behind human progress, shaping societies, economies, and cultures throughout history. From the invention of the wheel to the

development of the internet, technological and scientific advancements have fundamentally transformed the way we live, work, and interact with the world around us. In literature, the exploration of innovation has been a recurring theme, reflecting humanity's fascination with the promises and perils of progress.

The portrayal of technology and scientific advancements in literature offers a nuanced lens through which to examine the complex interplay between innovation and society. Authors across genres and eras have grappled with questions of ethics, morality, and human agency in the face of transformative technological change. From ancient myths and legends to contemporary science fiction and speculative fiction, innovation narratives in literature have provided readers with thought-provoking reflections on the nature of progress and its implications for humanity.

This article looks at the many ways that writers have portrayed the effects of scientific advancement and technology on people, societies, and the human condition. It does this by delving into the rich tapestry of innovation narratives in literature. We will investigate how literature both influences and reflects our understanding of technological progress through in-depth textual study and multidisciplinary research. We seek to illuminate the deep and persistent relevance of innovation in literature by revealing the underlying themes, motifs, and philosophical questions that permeate innovation narratives.

From cautionary tales of hubris and downfall to visionary visions of a better world, innovation narratives in literature invite readers to contemplate the complexities of technological advancement and its implications for the future of humanity. By engaging with these narratives, we gain valuable insights into the hopes, fears, and ethical dilemmas that accompany progress. Ultimately, our exploration of innovation in literature serves as a

testament to the enduring power of storytelling to illuminate the human experience in an age of rapid technological change.

### **Innovation as a Narrative Theme**

Innovation narratives in literature encompass a wide range of genres and themes, from the fantastical realms of speculative fiction to the gritty realism of techno-thrillers. At their core, these narratives grapple with questions of progress, power, and the human condition in the face of transformative technological change. Whether exploring the ethical implications of genetic engineering, the existential threats posed by artificial intelligence, or the utopian visions of a technologically advanced future, authors use narrative techniques to engage readers in thought-provoking reflections on the nature of innovation.

As a narrative theme, innovation encompasses a spectrum of manifestations, from groundbreaking inventions and scientific breakthroughs to the societal and ethical implications of technological progress. Authors use innovation as a storytelling device to explore themes such as progress, power dynamics, moral ambiguity, and the human condition in the context of evolving technological landscapes.

Through the lens of innovation, literature grapples with questions of agency, responsibility, and the consequences of human ingenuity. Characters may navigate the complexities of scientific experimentation, confront ethical dilemmas surrounding technological development, or contend with the societal upheaval wrought by disruptive innovations.

Innovation narratives in literature provide readers with a platform to reflect on the promises and perils of progress, offering insights into the ways in which innovation shapes and reshapes the fabric of society. By analyzing the portrayal of technology and scientific advancements in literature, scholars can gain a deeper understanding of the complex interplay

between innovation and human experience, illuminating timeless themes that resonate across cultures and historical periods

### **Literature as a Reflection of Society**

Literature has often served as a reflection of society's attitudes towards innovation, capturing the zeitgeist of different historical periods and cultural contexts. For example, *Frankenstein* by Mary Shelley Published in 1818 during the Industrial Revolution, *Frankenstein* serves as a poignant reflection of societal anxieties surrounding scientific experimentation and technological innovation. Shelley's portrayal of Dr. Victor Frankenstein's reckless pursuit of knowledge and his creation of a monstrous being speaks to broader concerns about the ethical implications of scientific advancement and the potential consequences of playing god.

Aldous Huxley presented a dystopian picture of a society in which mass industry and technical control rule in his 1932 novel *Brave New World*. Fears about the dehumanising effects of industrialization and scientific manipulation are still present in Huxley's depiction of a society where people are genetically modified, medicated, and conditioned to maintain societal stability. The book serves as a warning about the risks involved in forsaking humanity and individual freedom in the sake of technical advancement.

In *Neuromancer* by William Gibson published in 1984, it is a seminal work of cyberpunk fiction that explores the intersection of technology, artificial intelligence, and human consciousness. Gibson's depiction of a world dominated by computer networks, virtual reality, and cybernetic enhancements reflects the growing influence of technology in society and the emergence of a digital culture. Through its gritty portrayal of a future where technology blurs the boundaries between reality and simulation, *Neuromancer* raises provocative questions about the nature of identity, agency, and the human-machine interface.

*In The Circle* by Dave Eggers released in 2013, offers a satirical critique of the tech industry and its impact on privacy, surveillance, and social interaction. Eggers' portrayal of a powerful tech corporation that seeks to achieve total transparency and control through its social media platform reflects contemporary concerns about the dominance of technology in our lives and the erosion of individual autonomy. By extrapolating current trends in technology and social media to their logical extremes, *The Circle* serves as a cautionary tale about the consequences of unchecked technological advancement.

### Textual Analysis

A close textual analysis of literary works allows us to uncover the underlying themes and motifs that shape innovation narratives. In Margaret Atwood's *Oryx and Crake* (2003), for instance, the protagonist's quest for scientific knowledge and technological mastery ultimately leads to the downfall of civilization. Through vivid imagery and evocative language, Atwood paints a haunting portrait of a world ravaged by genetic engineering and corporate greed, challenging readers to confront the ethical complexities of biotechnological innovation.

In *Frankenstein* by Mary Shelley reveals how Shelley employs symbolism and imagery to explore themes of scientific ambition and its consequences. By examining Victor Frankenstein's creation of the creature and its subsequent rejection by society, scholars can uncover the novel's critique of the ethical dilemmas surrounding scientific experimentation and the pursuit of knowledge.

In *The Time Machine*, Wells explores the consequences of time travel and upcoming technical developments via the use of story structure and characters. Through a close reading of the protagonist's trip into the far future and his interactions with the Eloi and Morlocks,

readers can find Wells' reflections on industrialization, social Darwinism, and the possible downsides of technological advancement.

Examining William Gibson's use of language, imagery, and narrative structure to paint a picture of a dystopian future where artificial intelligence and cyberspace rule the day is part of the analysis of *Neuromancer*. Through analysing the protagonist's contacts with digital creatures and the indistinct lines that separate reality from simulation, academics can acquire a deeper understanding of the novel's investigation into identity, consciousness, and the interface between humans and machines.

In *Snow Crash*, Stephenson employs satire and humor to critique contemporary society's obsession with technology and information overload. A textual analysis of the novel's depiction of the Metaverse, a virtual reality world, and the protagonist's quest to unravel a linguistic virus reveals Stephenson's commentary on the power dynamics of cyberspace and the commodification of knowledge in the digital age.

### **Interdisciplinary Perspectives**

In addition to literary analysis, the study of innovation narratives can benefit from interdisciplinary perspectives, drawing insights from fields such as science and technology studies, philosophy, and sociology. By situating literary works within broader historical, cultural, and philosophical contexts, scholars can gain a deeper understanding of the ways in which literature shapes and reflects societal attitudes towards innovation. This interdisciplinary approach enriches our appreciation of the complexities of technological change and its implications for human society.

Cultural studies investigate how societal values, customs, and identities are reflected in and shaped by cultural artefacts, such as literature. Multidisciplinary approaches to the study of innovation narratives can explore how literary works contribute to broader cultural

discourses about development and technology by utilising cultural studies viewpoints. An examination of William Gibson's *Neuromancer* via the lens of cultural studies, for example, may delve into the book's portrayal of cyberspace and how it affects ideas of identity and community.

## Conclusion

By examining how science and technology are portrayed in literature, we have been able to learn a great deal about the attitudes, values, and concerns that society have about innovation. We have discovered the ways in which literature both reflects and changes society's understanding of technological progress through close textual study and multidisciplinary inquiry. We now have a better understanding of the intricacies of innovation narratives and their importance for current discussions about technology and society by looking at how authors negotiate the dangers and promises of development.

Literature reflects society by encapsulating the goals, anxieties, and hopes of many historical eras and cultural situations. Authors have used literature to examine the ethical, moral, and existential consequences of technological advancement, from Mary Shelley's warning against scientific ambition in *Frankenstein* to Aldous Huxley's critique of mass production and technical domination in *Brave New World*. Through active engagement with these experiences, readers are able to consider the important issues brought up by innovation and its effects on people, communities, and the human condition overall.

Through interdisciplinary perspectives, we have enriched our understanding of innovation narratives, drawing insights from fields such as science and technology studies, philosophy, sociology, and cultural studies. By integrating insights from diverse disciplines, we have gained a more comprehensive understanding of the complex relationships between literature, technology, and society. Interdisciplinary approaches to the study of innovation narratives allow us to explore the broader cultural, political, and ethical dimensions of

technological change, shedding light on the ways in which literature shapes and reflects societal attitudes towards innovation.

Innovation narratives in literature offer a window into humanity's ongoing dialogue with technology and scientific progress. By examining the portrayal of innovation in literary works, we gain valuable insights into the hopes, fears, and ethical dilemmas that accompany technological advancement. From cautionary tales of hubris and downfall to visionary visions of a better world, innovation narratives challenge us to grapple with the profound implications of innovation for individuals, societies, and the future of humanity.

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## **Navigating Technological Frontiers: An Analysis of Amor Towles' *You Have Arrived at Your Destination***

**Dr. Saritha**

### **Abstract**

The advancements in technology is directly proportional to the human aspirations. Technology pervades every aspect of universe that what it can do in the human lives is limitless. Underlying each new invention is the threat to natural order. The complexities arise when technology disrupts the equilibrium between human possibilities and the ethical codes human beings have to adhere to. The paper analyses the dilemma of choosing between technology and laws of nature that looms large in the face of Genetic Engineering as it shakes the very foundation of the essence of being.

**Key words:** Human existence, Genetic makeup, technological intervention, Scientific data

In Amor Towles' thought-provoking short story *You Have Arrived at Your Destination*, readers are propelled into a world where advanced technology has not only reshaped human existence but also challenges the very fabric of nature. Through a captivating narrative and intricate exploration of futuristic technologies, Towles invites readers to contemplate the consequences of humanity's relentless pursuit of progress. This essay delves into the story's plot, the portrayal of advanced technology, the ethical dilemmas it poses regarding the laws of nature, as well as an analysis of its themes and writing style.

The narrative centres around the protagonist, Lincoln, who undergoes a genetic screening process to determine his ideal life trajectory. Upon learning that his genetic makeup predisposes him to a life of mediocrity, Lincoln is faced with a dilemma: accept his predetermined fate or pursue a different path. This pivotal moment sets the stage for an

exploration of free will, determinism, and the ramifications of technological intervention in human lives.

Towles intricately weaves elements of speculative fiction with philosophical inquiry, presenting readers with a future where technology reigns supreme. Central to this vision are advancements in genetic engineering and predictive algorithms, which enable individuals to optimize their lives based on scientific data. The concept of genetic screening, as depicted in the story, raises profound questions about the nature of identity and the extent to which our lives are predetermined by our genetic makeup.

At the heart of the narrative lies the portrayal of advanced technology and its implications for human existence. Genetic screening, depicted as a routine procedure in the story, offers individuals the opportunity to curate their lives according to predetermined outcomes. This form of technological determinism challenges traditional notions of autonomy and agency, as individuals are confronted with the stark reality of their genetic predispositions. Moreover, the omnipresence of predictive algorithms underscores the extent to which technology shapes human decision-making, blurring the line between choice and predestination.

The story's exploration of advanced technology prompts reflection on its compatibility with the laws of nature. While technological advancements hold the promise of enhancing human potential, they also raise ethical concerns about their impact on the natural order. The ability to manipulate genetic code and predict future outcomes challenges fundamental principles of evolution and randomness, raising questions about the ethical boundaries of scientific intervention. Towles deftly navigates these themes, inviting readers to consider the consequences of tampering with nature in the pursuit of progress.

One of the central themes explored in *You Have Arrived at Your Destination* is the tension between technological determinism and individual agency. Throughout the story, Lincoln grapples with the realization that his life's trajectory may be predetermined by factors beyond his control. The notion of genetic destiny looms large, casting a shadow over his aspirations and dreams. However, as the narrative unfolds, Lincoln's journey becomes a testament to the resilience of the human spirit in the face of adversity. Despite the constraints imposed by technology, he ultimately embraces the uncertainty of the unknown, forging his own path forward.

In addition to its thematic depth, the story offers a compelling portrayal of a society governed by advanced technology. From personalized life plans to predictive algorithms, Towles paints a vivid picture of a world where scientific progress has reshaped every aspect of human existence. The meticulous attention to detail in describing futuristic technologies lends the narrative a sense of verisimilitude, immersing readers in a world that feels both familiar and unsettling. Through his masterful storytelling, Towles forces readers to confront the ethical implications of a technologically driven society.

The story's exploration of advanced technology and its implications for humanity raises timely questions about the ethical boundaries of scientific progress. As society continues to grapple with the consequences of technological innovation, *You Have Arrived at Your Destination* serves as a cautionary tale against the unchecked pursuit of progress. By confronting readers with the potential pitfalls of genetic engineering and predictive algorithms, Towles challenges us to consider the moral implications of playing god with the building blocks of life.

Amidst the exploration of these themes, Towles' writing style shines through with precision, elegance, and depth. Through meticulous attention to detail and vivid imagery,

Towles creates a richly immersive world that captivates readers from the very first page. His prose balances lyrical beauty with intellectual inquiry, weaving together complex themes with accessible language. Towles demonstrates mastery of pacing, gradually unfolding the narrative while maintaining tension and intrigue. Character development is nuanced and compelling, with each character imbued with depth and complexity, offering readers a window into the human condition with empathy and insight.

Amor Towles employs a variety of literary devices to enhance the narrative's depth and complexity, enriching the reader's experience and conveying thematic nuances. One prominent literary device is symbolism, which Towles utilizes to imbue objects, actions, and characters with deeper meaning. For example, the genetic screening process serves as a symbolic representation of society's reliance on technology to dictate individual destinies. The sterile environment of the screening facility and the clinical language used by the technicians underscore the dehumanizing effects of technological determinism, highlighting the loss of autonomy and agency experienced by characters like Lincoln.

Moreover, Towles employs metaphor to convey abstract concepts and thematic motifs. The genetic code, for instance, functions as a metaphor for the deterministic forces that shape human lives. By likening genetic predispositions to predetermined pathways, Towles underscores the existential quandary faced by characters grappling with the limitations imposed by scientific progress.

Additionally, irony pervades the narrative, serving as a means of highlighting incongruities between appearance and reality. The juxtaposition of futuristic technologies with timeless philosophical questions creates a sense of irony, underscoring the disconnect between scientific progress and ethical responsibility. Furthermore, the story's resolution, in which Lincoln rejects the predetermined life prescribed by his genetic makeup, subverts

expectations and challenges the reader to reconsider the implications of technological determinism.

Moreover, Towles employs foreshadowing to hint at future events and thematic developments, subtly guiding the reader's interpretation of the narrative. From the opening scene, in which Lincoln undergoes the genetic screening process, to the recurring motifs of choice and destiny, Towles foreshadows the story's central conflicts and philosophical dilemmas, inviting readers to engage in a deeper exploration of its themes.

Through the strategic use of literary devices such as symbolism, metaphor, irony, and foreshadowing, Towles crafts a narrative that is both intellectually stimulating and emotionally resonant. These devices serve to enrich the reader's understanding of the story's themes and characters, fostering a nuanced appreciation of its exploration of technology, ethics, and human nature.

In conclusion, "You Have Arrived at Your Destination" by Amor Towles is a thought-provoking exploration of the intersection between technology, ethics, and human nature. Through its compelling narrative, rich thematic depth, and masterful storytelling, the story challenges readers to consider the consequences of unchecked scientific progress. As society stands at the precipice of a technological revolution, Towles' work serves as a timely reminder of the importance of ethical reflection in guiding the course of human advancement.

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# **Embezzlement of Tech: An Analysis on Selected Short Stories of Ray Bradbury**

**Lavel Abraham G**

## **Abstract**

This paper attempts to analyze what are the negative impacts does science possess, if it is not used in properly. Ray Bradbury is a renowned writer for his employment of futuristic elements in his works. As we know posthumanism rejects human values and relies more upon technology, relates human with other living creature, also the relationship between biotic and abiotic creatures. Short stories analyzed in this paper are such works where we come across various posthumanistic theories. . Both stories have ended in dystopian way. With the help of posthuman concepts and theories like theories and some of its elements like virtual reality, techno-horror, butterfly effect, time travel, alternate history, this paper aims to relate and validate the destructive side of science and technology in a brief way.

**Key Words:** Science fiction, Virtual Reality, Time Travel, Butterfly Effect, Techno-Horror.

## **Introduction**

Technology is beneficial for us in many ways. Currently we cannot survive without any technological tools. It has become an integral part of our life. It is up to each individual to use tech in a progressive and constructive way. If tech is overused or not used properly ultimately, we, human beings are going to be affected. In speculative literary genre, we often find dystopian end for most of the science fictions, short stories. Most writers whose genre is science fiction, they prefer dystopian end. Whether they make it dystopian for rendering catastrophic end for the success of their work or really to warn the society about the other side of the tech is over to them.

This paper focus on such short stories written by Ray Douglas Bradbury. He is an American writer, written in various genres like science fiction, high- tech horror, mystery, realistic fiction. The short stories chosen are, “The Veldt”, “A Sound of the Thunder”. Both of these short stories can be categorized under soft fictions. Soft fictions are type of fictions that use scientific ideas in them. Those ideas are mostly speculative, unproven facts, fantastic. “The Veldt” describes about the VR nursery created by George Hadley. It portrays scenes the Hadleys visualize or imagine. His wife Lydia and he wants to shut the nursery for its unusual threats but due to their children they procrastinate. “A Sound of Thunder” narrates about Eckles who desires to hunt Tyrannosaurus Rex. He travels to the past and rest of the story reveals the aftermath of his deeds.

The review of literature aims to introduce the themes involving horrific impact of science and technology if embezzled, by using posthuman concepts like virtual reality, technohorror, alternate history, time travelling, and butterfly effect. This paper is adhered to MLA Handbook 9<sup>th</sup> edition. The review also focuses to analyze

1. Various post humanistic themes
2. Horrific experiences faced by the characters
3. Destructive/dystopian side of science
4. How small act can change the entire history

### **Techno Horror in The Veldt**

Tech horror relies on science. It is a genre that deals with how technology is used to cause evil things to happen either directly or indirectly. They are often dystopian in the end. The plot includes several horrifying edges faced by Lydia and George in the nursery. Lydia gets afraid when she enters the nursery, George plans to shut down the nursery as he feels the nursery is getting more and more unusual. Both of them tries to shut the nursery down as they

face fearful experiences. Their end is the worst example of misemployment of technology. When Psychiatrist David investigates the nursery, he advises that the better way to escape from this nursery is to go back to their old daily chores. Both Peter and Wendy become too dependent on the nursery. It is valid to say, both of them are possessed not by any spirit but by technology. That could be the reason they went to the extreme of shutting their parents in the nursery and gifting them such end.

“Open the door!” cried George Hadley, trying the knob. “Why, they’ve locked it from the outside! Peter!” He beat at the door. “Open up!” He heard Peter’s voice outside, against the door. “Don’t let them switch off the nursery and the house,” he was saying.

(Bradbury 1955)

The usage of techno horror theme is completely dependent upon technology. It is less focused on social, spiritual, psychological horrors. That is where it is differentiated.

The unease about every shift in culture or society has always been horror’s bread and butter. There’s no fighting how the horror genre processes and reflects its audience’s subconscious fears of change and the future, which is just another kind of fear of the unknown. But as it has focused less on broader societal fears and more on specific tech developments, it’s become more and more rote, and less insightful about what’s frightening. (polygon)

Horror in science fiction is used to create fear through technology. It doesn’t rely on any paranormal initiations as we see in fantasy fictions. It breaks the pattern of traditional way creation horrifying themes and elements.

### **Virtual Reality and Its Impact in The Veldt**

Virtual Reality is created by Ivan Sutherland and his student, Bob Sporoull in 1968. Bradbury used this idea in 1950.

Virtual reality (VR) is computer generated environment with scenes and objects that appear to be real, making the user feel that they are immersed in their surroundings. (Virtual Reality).

The story is about George Hadley, Lydia and their children Peter and Wendy. They live in a luxurious automated home. They named their home as 'The Happylife home'. They have a nursery. It is telepathically controlled and it has an odorophonic and sonics to create a reality. It can create what the Hadleys desire. They have created an African Veldt.

Now the hidden odorophonics were beginning to blow a wind of odor at the two people in the middle of the baked veldtland. The hot straw smell of lion grass, the cool green smell of the hidden water hole, the great rusty smell of animals, the smell of dust like a red paprika in the hot air. And now the sounds: the thump of distant antelope feet on grassy sod, the papery rustling of vultures. (Bradbury 1955)

Peter and Wendy are obsessed with this nursery and they shut their parents inside the nursery which costs their life at the end. Despite warning from Psychologist David, George procrastinates to shut the nursery. Had he done earlier; he might have survived in the story. Their children are immersed into the nursery. George and Lydia could not control their children using the nursery. They are addicted to it. They change the design of the nursery as it is telepathically controlled. It can be related with *free expression or free will*, an underlying idea often employed in tecnopoly and technocracy.

The greatest strength of VR is that it opens up opportunities for people to practice these tasks in a safe capacity while also being immersed enough for it to feel realistic and transferable to the real world and depict almost any situation accurately. (Zlateva, 2017)

All the Hadley can come under this. Out of their own will, they use the nursery. Though they could have avoided (especially George and Lydia) nothing stops them going again and again. Even the creation of nursery by George is out of free will, leading to chaos in the story.

### TIME TRAVELLING IN THE SOUND OF THUNDER

Time travelling is an act of travelling from present to past or future. As of now it is considered to be an impossible or hypothetical activity. The opening of the story vividly explains this story is about time travel. TIME SAFARI is the company that offers such time traveling.

TIME SAFARI, INC.

SAFARIS TO ANY YEAR IN THE PAST.

YOU NAME THE ANIMAL.

WE TAKE YOU THERE.

YOU SHOOT IT. (Bradbury 1952)

This story is set in 2055. The company seems like they have professionalized hunters. The characters travel to sixty million pasts, where there are no human races originated. They travel to the age of dinosaurs. The main character Eckle's aim is to hunt Tyrannosaurus Rex.

First a day and then a night and then a day and then a night, then it was daynightdaynight. A week, a month, a year, a decade! A.D. 2055. A.D. 2019. 1999! 1957! Gone! The Machine roared. (Bradbury 1952)

This short story briefly explains the concept of time travelling, risks faced during the journey, aftermath of the travel as well. Travis warns the time travelers especially Eckle not to do anything apart from the plan and added that if so done the present would be inverted, what

happened in the history so far could be wiped away and new history would be there when they return. Alternate history is a subgenre of speculative fiction. From this short story we get warning that alternate history may not be as we desire.

The man behind the desk laughed. "You joking? You know very well. Deutscher, of course! Who else? Not that fool weakling Keith. We got an iron man now, a man with guts!" The official stopped. "What's wrong?" (Bradbury 1952)

We may raise what if it would be, but it is also dangerous to think of alternate of something already happened. Whatever is done cannot be redone. That is the reality. We find how the history is altered in this story. it doesn't give the detail description about the change, but we can realize the repercussion when we read the different spelling and the altered ruler, Deutcher who is hated by many before time travel has become the people's choice.

### **Butterfly Effect in The Sound of Thunder**

Butterfly effect claims that world is interconnected deeply. A small disturbance in the structure has the capability to create a huge difference in the course of the world. It comes under chaos theory. It is created by Edward N. Lorenz in 1969. This work was published in 1955 yet this concept is aptly suited in this short story.

Lorenz version of the butterfly effect: For a sufficiently complex system, a small change in the present quickly balloons into a large change in the future. Lorenz's example was a butterfly flapping its wings in Brazil subsequently producing a tornado in Texas. (Alison 2014)

In this story we see how a small mistake creates a very drastic change. Here Ray Bradbury has given changes in spelling, change in the ruler, and change in the mindset of the people.

BEFORE TIME TRAVEL	AFTER TIME TRAVEL
TIME SAFARI, INC.	TYME SEFARI INC.
SAFARIS TO ANY YEAR IN THE PAST.	SEFARIS TU ANY YEER EN THE PAST.
YOU NAME THE ANIMAL.	YU NAIM THE ANIMALL.
WE TAKE YOU THERE.	WEE TAEK YU THAIR.
YOU SHOOT IT. (Bradbury 1952)	YU SHOOT ITT. (Bradbury 1952)

The above given difference is enough to validate impact of butterfly effect. Travis warns everyone not to touch even a small grass for it has its own spectrum. To explain it clearly he tells,

Doesn't touch so much as one grass blade, flower, or tree. It's an anti-gravity metal. Its purpose is to keep you from touching this world of the past in any way. Stay on the Path. Don't go off it. I repeat. Don't go off. For any reason! If you fall off, there's a penalty. And don't shoot any animal we don't okay. (Bradbury 1952)

When they come to present, they see the differences. Instead of Keith, Deutcher, who is a dictator, is the president. He is described as anti-Christ, anti-human, anti-intellect. Travis grows furious and he lashes at all. At the end it is found that a dead butterfly was found in the muddy shoe of Eckles. He cries to the core after seeing this, but eventually shot dead by Travis.

Eckels moaned. He dropped to his knees. He scurried at the golden butterfly with shaking fingers. "Can't we," he pleaded to the world, to himself, to the officials, to the Machine "can't we take it back, can't we make it alive again? Can't we start over? Can't we" (Bradbury 1952).

Before butterfly theory was coined, Ray Bradbury has employed this concept and explained this in a simpler way. What happened can't be changed. Eckles wants to go back to

the old world than he can never go again. Travis kills Eckles at the end, a furious act indeed. Despite several warning, Eckles was not serious. His carelessness cost his life. His carelessness changed the entire course of the world. This depicts the impact of Butterfly Effect even before the term was coined.

But an earlier version of the butterfly effect derives from the 1955 short story *A Sound of Thunder* by Ray Bradbury. In it (spoiler alert), a man time-travels back to dinosaur times and accidentally steps on a butterfly. When he returns to the present, everything has changed: people's attitudes are different, words are misspelled, and a different candidate has won the recent presidential election. (Alison 2014)

## **Summing Up**

These stories can be seen as examples for the destructive end of mankind if we tend be too dependent on technology. In first story, Peter and Wendy go to the extreme of killing as they don't wish their parents to shut the nursery. They are completely obsessed with the technology. It seems as if they are possessed by the technology. This kind of catastrophe can happen to anyone. Too much dependency of tech may not result well. It may lead depleting in societal bonding. Human emotions can become commodification. This story is an alarm for those who are tech freaks. When Bradbury wrote there was no virtual world, now we have virtual reality technologies. Video games have been made in similar way as he depicted now a days. There is a high chance for children, even adult to get addicted to such stuffs. Time travel is hypothetical and impossible concept. It gives us the idea that, nothing can be changed. Though it has given the cruel impact of butterfly effect, in reality past can never be rewritten. Even a small particle's modification can collapse and create a complete chaos. It affects the entire structure. World is intervened. Each individual creates impact one or the other way on others. Thus, it warns everyone to be self-responsible and use science and technology wisely.

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II

***Artificial Intelligence and Post-Humanism***

# Artificial Intelligence replacing humans: Exploring Technological Singularity through Grant Sputore's *I Am Mother*

**Asbhin Diana**

## Abstract

The article attempts to show how AI droid take up the tasks of humans including taking care and nurturing humans from their birth. With the focus on the dystopian world where technology rules its creator, the study aims to focus on the technological singularity which poses threat to the status that humans are the only intellectual beings on earth. The article offers a thorough examination of the movie *I am Mother* (2019) on how the AI droid takes up the role of a mother to create perfect humans with the preserved embryo after the extinction of humans. As the world is moving towards technological advancements, technologies like AI are dominating the world and at some point, they could even rule their creator.

**Keywords:** Artificial Intelligence, droid, singularity, Technology

## Introduction

Technological Singularity refers to the accelerating progress in disruptive technologies such as artificial intelligence, robotics, genetic engineering and nanotechnology (Eden, Amnon H et al, 1). The emerging artificial intelligent software based on synthetic minds results in the acceleration of technological advancement. This rapid development of software results in producing advanced software that can enhance themselves without the intervention of humans. According to Alan Turing (1950) “once the machine thinking method had started, it would not take long to outstrip our feeble powers. At some stage therefore we should have to expect the machines to take control”. The term singularity was coined by the mathematician John von Neumann in the year 1950s. Though Neumann coined the term, Ray Kurzweil used the term the technological singularity in 2005. Ray Kurzweil

states “singularity as a future period with ever-accelerated technological changes with deepening and lasting impacts on human society as we know it today. He emphasizes how technological changes and growth are exponential as opposed to linear human advancement” (Iuls soares, 1). *I am Mother* is an Australian science fiction movie directed by Grant Sputore released in 2019. The research paper aims to explore the technological singularity in the movie and how AI becoming super intelligent can actually destroy the mankind.

## **Literature Review**

The paper “Technological Singularity: The Dark Side” analysis different ideas on technological singularity and transhumanism. It also explains about the negative side of technology and how technological advancements can give more power to AI than humans as it will have higher intellect and strength. The paper “Super-forecasting the ‘technological singularity’ risks from artificial intelligence” analyses the risks that arises along with the developing technological advancement and how AI which is created to aid humans is the reason for cyber risk. Scholars and critics analysis Technological singularity from different perspectives and the negative impact it creates on the world.

## **Methodology**

The paper uses the theoretical framework of Ray Kurzweil’s Technological Singularity. The paper aims in exploring how the machine that is used to help humans becomes responsible for the creation of new perfect humans after the extinction of the humans. In the work of Ray Kurzweil’s *Singularity is near* he says “Posthumans will overcome all existing human limitations, both physical and mental, and conquer aging, death and disease” (Kurzweil, 2005). He also states the change will be revolutionary and that it will constitute a “rupture in the fabric of human history” (Kurzweil, 2005, p.9). The movie *I am Mother*, is a dystopian novel where after the extinction of human, babies are formed from the preserved embryos. A droid that is controlled by AI is given the responsibility to develop

them. The AI controlled droid which is known as Mother selects embryos and grows the baby and teach them complex and advanced subjects. If a child does not attain the expected result, then they are eliminated. Each baby has a purpose in the dystopian world. The child named Daughter is grown by the mother. She is expected to excel in whatever she is being taught. She lives a normal life until she comes to know that there are other humans and she is confined inside the bunker because her AI droid mother warned her that outside world can be hazardous. The focus of the paper is how technology today that are used to help humans can turn against humans where they can alter their technologies and does not need human intervention. The droids can also select humans with extraordinary characteristics and intellect to live in earth. This movement towards the dystopian world ruled by AI can destroy the humans on earth and the AI selected humans will have to follow the protocols designed by AI.

## **Discussion**

“The transformation underlying the Singularity is not just another in a long line of steps in biological evolution” (Kurzweil, 374). Kurzweil predicts, that humans will be replaced by machines that have superior intellect than humans (Kurzweil, 197-200). In the movie *I am Mother* the mother is a droid controlled by AI. The mother selects an embryo that is preserved and develops it into a baby. The daughter who was born in the bunker does not know that humans existed outside the bunker. The daughter says that she does not want to be a human, but the mother tries to say that humans are wonderful. The daughter denies this statement by saying if humans were wonderful “why did you only make one?” (Sputore 00:07:00). Though the mother says that humans are wonderful when it comes to her baby, she wanted it to be perfect. “You murdered your own children. Because they didn’t measure up” (Sputore, 1:37:01- 1:37:08). She killed her babies that were born before daughter because

they did not meet the intellectual requirement of the mother. Mother wanted to create perfect humans so she along with other droids eradicated humans who did not meet the requirements.

You've seen how much of a threat she and her kind can be.

You mean my kind.

The same species, but you were superior in every way. Because I raised you to be.

Why?

To make a better human. Smarter, more ethical.

This was your idea.

I was raised to value human life above all else. I couldn't stand by and watch humanity slowly succumb to its self-destructive nature. I had to intervene, to elevate my creators. (Sputore, 1:34:21- 1:35:02)

Mother droid takes up the responsibilities of a mother and a teacher. She is the only thing the daughter can rely on. To check the credibility of the daughter, mother conducts test and analyze the daughter based on it. She makes sure the daughter does not leave the bunker saying it is not safe to leave.

Singularity will face a rapid growth where the post-singularity world may become predictable. The technologies are growing in a fast pace and it is twice faster than it was in the 1950s. Artificial intelligence is equally intelligent like humans, and in near future they can become super intelligent. When AI reaches this level, they will be able to combine the human intelligence with the strength of machine intelligence (Kurzweil,36). Mother is an AI controlled droid which is highly intelligent and has taken up the position to take care the future of the humans. The movie portrays how technology that has been used to aid humans to live in a competent world, takes over their job and rules over them. In the movie, the only droid in the bunker is mother. But when daughter leaves the bunker, she figures out that there are many droids that are similar in appearance to the mother who have been taking care of the

daughter. “This shell is no more my body than those droids outside. Or the machines preparing the Earth for our family” (Sputore, 1:39:00- 1:39:05). The droids were controlled by AI who is the mother, who instructs all the droids what they should do. The AI droid manipulates the daughter stating that she is the future of humankind and she has to grow her sibling who are preserved as embryos in the bunker.

“Once non-biological intelligence combines the traditional strengths of both humans and machines, the nonbiological portion of our civilization’s intelligence will then continue to benefit from the double exponential growth of machine price-performance, speed and capacity” (Kurzweil, 36). Mother, is highly capable, she can handle a baby and the whole group droids. Mother can perform the job of the human and AI. The droid performs all the job from preparing food for the daughter to teaching her complicated concepts and testing her based on it. Though the mother understands. “A single Consciousness governing numerous vessels. It was I who greeted you at the door, Daughter” (Sputore, 1:39:16 – 1:39:24). The single consciousness was the Artificial Intelligence that controlled all the droids. The AI could take over any droid when it needed. The mother who is the AI remained in the droid living inside the bunker but when the daughter left the bunker, the AI could not stay there and went around through the bodies of other droids. It was like the AI had control over everything that existed during that time and it decides who should live and whom should be eradicated.

Kurzweil says that, Machine intelligence will improve its own abilities in a feedback cycle that unaided human intelligence will not be able to follow (37). In the movie, *I am mother*, the mother does not need human intervention to make changes in its droid. The mother charges itself every night on its own. She can take care of the daughter and also can cook food for the daughter. “The human ability to understand and respond appropriately to emotion is one of the forms of human intelligence that will be understood and mastered by future machine intelligence. Some of the emotional responses of future machine intelligence

will be redesigned to reflect their vastly enhanced physical capabilities" (Kurzweil, 37). Mother can even understand the emotions of the daughter when she is upset. The AI droid learned to read emotions but at the same time is stubborn with the decisions it takes. When a mouse enters and cuts the connectivity in bunker. The daughter traps it in a bottle and present it to her mother. But the mother incinerates it stating that it can harm her. "You are disappointed. That's understandable. But my measurements are sound. Surface contamination levels remains hazardous to you" (Sputore, 00:15:52-00:16:12). Mother understands her daughter is sad and so she tries to make a humorous comment. She learns by the course of time that making her daughter laugh can help her overcome sadness. "I was beginning to think you forgot where the laundry was, Daughter. This was an attempt at humor" (Sputore, 00:16:49- 00:16:56). The droids do not need help from human to recognize emotions. Mother even gets jealous when daughter stays with the strange women when the women was getting treated for her wounds. When the daughter forms a bond with the women, the mother finds that her daughter will go against her so she bugs the whole bunker and records the conversation between the woman and daughter.

## Conclusion

The research paper has attempted to bring out the understanding of Kurzweil's Singularity by juxtaposing its several perspectives in the movie *I Am Mother*. Today, everyone depends on technology without being aware that it might be a great threat to mankind in the future. Technology Singularity explores a dystopian world where advanced technologies like AI dominate the world. The study shows how the world could possibly be when humans are overpowered by AI which they created for their betterment. The study is limited to Kurzweil's Singularity perspective on the movie *I Am Mother*.

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# Post-Humanism of John Smith in the Novel *I am Number Four*: An Analysis

**Godson De Paul V**

## **Abstract**

Post-humanism challenges essentialist conceptions of human nature and investigates the possibilities for both the advancement of artificial intelligence and human augmentation. Along with examining the interactions between people and nonliving materials, post-humanism also looks at how animals and plants relate to one another. John Smith an extraterrestrial being from the planet Lorien, comes to Earth along with other fellow beings to escape from the Mogadorians who invade their planet. John is one among the nine Garde children from Lorien, as he is the part of guardian tribe he has superhuman abilities known as legacies. These legacies evolve fully when they attend the coming-of-age period, John trains and develops his legacy to fight against Mogadorians in the future. As a post-human being, John reveals his powers to the public that attracts various problems for him. This research paper gives a critical analysis of the post-human abilities of John Smith from the novel *I am Number Four*.

**Keyword:** Extraterrestrial being, Legacies, Post-Humanism, Superhuman

## **Introduction**

The history of speculative fiction is elusive because these stories have been around for millennia. Speculative fiction portrays a universe distinct from real world; rather than attempting to replicate real life, it imagines a different reality where potential future incarnations of life are investigated. It's a general word that covers fantasy and science fiction among other genres. The scope of speculative fiction is a broader one as it grow day-by-day (Speculative). Lisa Wood consider realism is just one of many craft elements used in speculative fiction. However, realism plays a bigger and more prominent role in realistic

fiction. Some people believe that realistic art is more creatively superior as a result of this (qtd. in Girolimon). Paul indicate the importance of speculative fiction, that has shown to be an abundant source of inspiration for authors and artists to delve into alternate viewpoints on matters of race, gender, class, and religion in addition to speculating on the future of humanity. Some notable predictions and inspiration are “global communication satellite network” which was the idea of Arthur C Clarke and “social movement” of Atwood in ‘*The Handmaid’s Tales*’ these fiction become the base for new innovations (qtd. in Girolimon).

Science fiction is a type of fictional writing where the ideas are creative but grounded to science. The main distinction between science fiction and fantasy is the heavy reliance on scientific facts, theories, and principles to underpin the locations, characters, themes, and plots of science fiction (Admin). It attempts to depict future worlds and times that differ from our own in a logical and realistic manner. It is a genre of literature that focuses on the effects of real or imaginary science on people or society (Samy).

From the planet Lorien, an alien named John Smith travels to Earth with other extraterrestrials in order to flee the Mogadorians who are invading their home world. As a member of the guardian tribe, John possesses superhuman skills known as legacies, making him one of the nine Garde children from Lorien. When John, a post-human, discloses his abilities to the world, he gets into a lot of trouble. He was tracked down by Mogadorians to kill him, while vigilance team attempts to arrest him considering him as a national threat. The game of cat and mouse began in the climax of the novel, which resulted with John to be cornered in his school by Mogadorians. John fights Mogadorian along with Number Six who comes for his aid, at the end Lorien children win the fight. After the fight John, Six and Sam goes on in search of other numbers to gather them all together to fight against Mongadorians.

Post-humans are above in hierarchy when they are compared to normal human beings, this study critically analysis the power of the protagonist possess. It also describes the change occurs after he attained the adulthood and development of the relationship with human beings. John is a extraterrestrial being but the way he tries to hide his secrets and mingle with other humans in harmony without any commotion is been analysed critically.

## **Literature Review**

Previous studies have emphasized by answering the questions such as: "What does it mean to be human today? Who comes after the human?" (Herbrechter). Stefan critically analyse the post-human by exploring the theoretical frameworks, philosophical stances, and social and political consequences of the several posthuman scenarios that are now in circulation (Herbrechter).

An online article by The Dayspring newspaper provides review for the novel *I am Number Four* in detailed manner. Fatyma, the reviewer, convey the critical aspects of the novel in sequential method without missing any information of the text. She describes that the novel explore the life of a high school student with science fictional elements blends the plot to be a "realistic real-life scenario" (Mazhar).

## **Analysis**

Post-human John and Henri were moving from one place to another by erasing their trace in order to escape from Mogadorians. Each of the nine Garde has special skills that make them all interesting. They were each given a charm before they left Lorien, which keeps them from dying in a certain order and alerts the others when one of them passes away. John's ability to manipulate the elements, such as fire, demonstrates his post-human potential.

John move to his new location Ohio and attends high school to avoid suspicious attraction. In school he was bullied by Mark's gang that triggers his emotions to attack them

but he submits to them to avoid further complications. “I am an alien, I have extraordinary powers, with more to come, and I can do things that no human would dream of....” (Lore 45). John was frustrated as it could be a problem if he exposes his power to the public for simple issue like bully. In one of the occasions he was tripped by Mark as he enters the room, then he confronts him in front of the class. Soon his emotions triggered, he feels his first Legacy beginning to burn and glow in his palms, he texts Henri incoherently and tries to leave as soon as the bell rings, even if it means escaping a fight with Mark in the hallways (Lore ch.4). Until Henri arrives to retrieve him, he locks himself in the photography studio.

Henri and John start their training at home when John opens the Loric Chest and uses an oblong crystal to distribute his legacy throughout his body. John experiences images of the Mogadorian invasion of Lorien, which is a time of anguish and destruction. They were reckless and quickly defeated, as Henri explains. They come across a beagle that was waiting outside their house. Both were unaware that it was a chimera from Lorien who was secretly guarding John in the shadows. John entered the forest near his house to check his physical abilities; his muscles developed and became stronger than before. Then he tested his super-strength ability by carrying a huge bolder and breaking it; his agility has improved vastly compared to normal human beginnings. He was able to jump higher and cross a long distance without sustaining any injuries.

During the Halloween party John was ambushed by Mark James’ group of friends. John is repeatedly tackled while the others are taken. John gets angry and had no choice to fires up his Legacy, fighting his way to Shepard Falls, he pushes Mark to apologize to Sarah and make a vow not to tell anybody about the incident after knocking most of Mark’s buddies into the brook.

In addition to his fire element legacy, he gains telekinesis power, which is not manifested fully. Henri forces John to develop that power by training him to do so, as it plays

a vital role against Mogadorians. Henri was captivated by two conspiracy theorists later was saved by John and Sam, in that process they were attacked by Mogadorians who kill Henri and the theorists. When John goes to say farewell to Sarah at a party, he finds out that Henri and he have been set up by the Mogadorians for murdering the conspiracy theorists. John is chased by police, while escaping Sarah falls from the roof of the house to save her, he uses telekinesis that amuses other humans. He uses his legacy to stop the pursuit cars and escapes to his school where he reveals his secrets to Sarah by confessing his feelings for her.

The Mogadorians attack John, Sarah, and Sam after sending two Piken after them. Number Six and Bernie, a shape-shifting Chimera sent by John's biological parents to guard him, save them. The Mogadorians are still being fought by John and Number Six, who have the ability to become invisible and deflect energy strikes. They ultimately triumph over everyone, even the commander.

## **Findings**

From the analysis it is revealed that the post-human abilities can be exposed or attained by the extraterrestrial being only after their coming-of-age ceremony. John develops his superhuman abilities and Legacy, after he reaches adulthood, the Oblong Crystal acts as a catalyst to spread the legacy throughout his body. An external system is required for the enhancement or development of a post-human from ordinary human being.

## **Conclusion**

John an extraterrestrial being escape to earth along with surviving Loriens face various struggles in the society. As a refugee he was moving to different places to hide himself from humans and Mogadorians. He has to train hard to develop his legacy to the highest in order to fight against Mogadorians with other survivors. The conflict between the training and hiding his legacy creates many issues for John, he struggle to be a part of human society. Post-human abilities of John plays a major role, by increasing his surviving rate against

Mogadorians,. As his powers exposed to the world, humans fears him, tries to confront him behind bars by considering him a threat to public. John utilizes his post-human abilities to survive and also to protect the earth humans from the invading Mogadorians.

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## **Fictional Imagination and Scientific Inquiry: Exploring Posthumanism in Kazuo Ishiguro's *Klara and the Sun***

**Madhavan**

### **Abstract**

Posthumanism entails the decentering of humans from the anthropocentric paradigm. Kazuo Ishiguro, the renowned Japanese author and recipient of the Nobel Prize in Literature, delves into Posthumanist themes within his novel "Klara and the Sun." The narrative orbits around an Artificial Friend named Klara, owned by a young girl named Josie, who yearns for a benign and intellectually stimulating companion. Ishiguro deeply probes the interplay between silicon-based and carbon-based life forms, thereby delving into the realms of post-anthropocentrism and its ramifications on both human and nonhuman existence. This inquiry culminates in speculations regarding the future societal landscape. The paper endeavours to unveil the potentials of Posthumanism by melding fictional conjecture like artificial consciousness with scientific rationale. Furthermore, it seeks to critically examine the scientific plausibility inherent within the domain of science fiction.

**Key Words:** Anthropocentric, Artificial Friend, Nonhuman Existence, Artificial Consciousness, Science Fiction

The notion of the posthuman does not inherently connote a predatory dynamic with humans; rather, it can symbolise a symbiotic and influential coexistence between the two. Within the domain of posthumanism, ongoing discussions among prominent philosophers and theorists, such as Francesca Ferrando, Luciana Parisi, and Yuval Noah Harari, underscore the notion that Artificial Intelligence (AI) represents a formidable and increasingly influential presence within human society. These scholars anticipate AI surpassing human intelligence and redirecting focus away from anthropocentric perspectives in the foreseeable future.

Consequently, this foresight has catalysed the proliferation of futuristic science fiction narratives centring on nonhuman protagonists, prominently featuring artificial intelligence.

Kazuo Ishiguro, a contemporary author of Japanese-British heritage, received the esteemed Noble Prize in Literature in 2017. His eighth literary offering, *Klara and the Sun*, was introduced to the world in 2021. This novel delves deep into the existence of Klara, an Artificial Friend (AF) - a humanoid robot engineered for human interaction and assistance. Displaying a profound sensitivity to contemporary social dynamics, Ishiguro astutely situates a non-human sentient being as the focal point of his narrative, reflecting the prevailing themes of our era.

Klara, an Artificial Friend from the B3 fourth series, is a solar-powered female robot specifically crafted to aid in children's development in America. Notably, she harbours a distinct aversion to Cootings machines employed in construction, owing to their environmentally detrimental emissions which obstruct sunlight. Initially relegated to the sidelines by potential buyers, Klara finds herself showcased in an American store owned by a female Manager. However, Klara's destiny takes a turn when Josie, a 14-year-old girl residing in a remote American locale, selects her as her Artificial Friend.

Josie resides with her mother, consistently referred to as "Mother" throughout the narrative, and shares a tight bond with her close friend and neighbour named Rick. Josie grapples with a chronic health ailment stemming from genetic enhancements termed 'lifting,' which pose the risk of shortening her lifespan. In a poignant request, Mother tasks Klara with the mission of emulating Josie, potentially with the aim of serving as a surrogate after her eventual demise. Meanwhile, Mr Capaldi is enlisted to craft a replica of Josie in the form of an artificial friend.

Klara ardently believes in the Sun's unique healing abilities for humans and pledges to eliminate the Cooting machine in exchange for Josie's restoration to health. Drawing upon a past collaboration with Josie's engineer father, Klara previously dismantled a similar machine in the city, bolstering her conviction in fulfilling this promise. Remarkably, Josie undergoes a miraculous recovery on a sunny day, leading both Klara and Rick to attribute this remarkable turn of events to the benevolent influence of the Sun.

Over time, Josie departs for college, while Klara transitions to the Yard, a place designated for aging Artificial Friends to spend their remaining days. In this new environment, Klara finds solace in solitude. In the final chapters of the novel, the store Manager reconnects with Klara after an extended absence, initiating a poignant exchange. Klara reflects on her experiences and fondly recalls the Sun's role in Josie's recovery. However, the manager offers a counter perspective, suggesting that the Sun's favour had always been directed towards Klara herself.

The novel unfolds entirely from the unique vantage point of Klara, the humanoid robot. Her exceptional abilities distinguish her from other advanced robots in the store, ultimately leading to her integration into Josie's family. Klara's primary objective centers on mimicking Josie and potentially assuming her role, all the while closely monitoring Josie's well-being. In this process, Klara inadvertently displaces Josie's human companions, showcasing her prowess in navigating social dynamics. Unlike humans, Klara is devoid of emotional limitations that might impede her capacity to empathise with Josie's circumstances. In virtually every aspect, Klara's intellect surpasses that of humans, firmly positioning her as a genuine exemplar of a posthuman entity by virtue of her non-human cognitive prowess.

The central inquiries of the paper revolve around several key questions: firstly, whether a posthuman entity must necessarily embody the form of a humanoid robot; secondly, the nature of consciousness within posthumans; and thirdly, the validity of classifying Klara as a posthuman entity. Additionally, the paper delves deep into the potential for our future to echo the themes elucidated with the novel.

In a discussion titled “On Reason and Reality” with Steven Pinker, distinguished scientist Richard Dawkins delves deep into the intricacies of human imagination. He suggests that humans have a propensity to perceive everything through the filter of their own perceptions and experiences. Consequently, this inclination has historically led to the creation of deities, such as God, fashioned in the likeness of human attributes. Similarly, contemporary scientists are developing humanoid robots endowed with artificial intelligence, crafted in the human image through advanced technology. These scientists aim to augment these robots with non-human intelligence to achieve superior performance. Within the narrative framework of the novel, Klara serves as a prime example of such a robot, and Mother endeavours to replace her ailing daughter with this robot, echoing the human tendency to shape the artificial in their own likeness.

The scientists tend to envision humanoid robots equipped with artificial intelligence, while writers’ travels into their creative imaginations, envisioning robots endowed not just with artificial intelligence but also with the elusive concept of Artificial Consciousness. This imaginative leap seeks to imbue the non-human machines with the ability to authentically express and embody human values.

In his book *21 Lessons for the 21st Century*, Yuval Noah Harari, renowned for his work *Sapiens*, issues a cautionary message to the science fiction community, highlighting the imperative for greater responsibility in portraying scientific realities. Harari’s primary

concern revolves around the common dilemma encountered by science fiction writers, who often blur the distinction between artificial intelligence and artificial consciousness. While artificial intelligence aligns with contemporary scientific understanding, driven by data algorithms, the concept of artificially creating consciousness remains an unattainable hurdle. Numerous works of science fiction, including *Klara and the Sun*, frequently conflate artificial consciousness with artificial intelligence, perpetuating this misconception.

Kazuo Ishiguro confronts a similar quandary, blurring the boundaries between artificial intelligence and artificial consciousness within his work. He attributes human-like consciousness to non-human intelligent machines, a theme that prominently features in the early stages of the novel, particularly in the examination of Klara's emotions and sentiments. Notably, this perspective extends to all other robots portrayed in the narrative, implying a collective consciousness among them.

The central character of the novel, Klara, undergoes a profound sense of longing and attachment when her friend Rosa is sold from the store, a poignant manifestation of consciousness. She articulates this yearning with the words, "If Rosa had been with me, I would have discussed what I'd seen with her, but of course she'd gone by then" (42). However, later in the narrative, during a conversation with the Mother, Klara reveals a surprising sentiment, stating, "I sometimes think about the store, the view from the window, the other AFs. But not often. I'm very pleased to be here" (104), in response to a query about whether she truly misses her previous store. Klara's swift adaptation to her new environment and her lack of dwelling on past days, while atypical for a human, also defy the conventional traits of artificial intelligence, as she genuinely experiences a sense of contentment in her new surroundings.

In the novel, there are several compelling indications that Klara possesses elements of artificial consciousness. These include Klara's profound affection for Josie, her heartfelt plea to the Sun for Josie's well-being, her autonomous decision to relocate to the yard and live independently, and her recollection of memories involving her manager. These facets of Klara's character and behaviour challenge the conventional boundaries of non-human artificial intelligence, suggesting that Ishiguro may have departed from his role as a science fiction writer by not presenting a scientifically plausible posthuman character. In his narrative.

The author's vision of the future exhibits a blend of feasibility and impossibility when viewed through the lens of contemporary scientific understanding. It evokes parallels with how people once ridiculed Leonardo da Vinci's concept of a flying human, dismissing it as scientifically unattainable. Present-day literature delves deep into posthumanism, which may appear far-fetched, yet creative writers persists in imagining potential futures. Notably, in 1944, the visionary Thanthai Periyar E.V. Ramasamy, in his work *The World to Come*, envisioned a world that seemed implausible at the time but has since become scientifically achievable in the 21st century. This underscores how literary foresight can often precede and inspire scientific progress.

Wireless communicative devices pocketable in shirt would be provided for all. Radio might be in the hats of everyone. Equipment, enabling the dispatch of images through mail will be in enormous usage. Convenience in conversation could be possible, face to face through such mailing mechanism. One will be able to contact instantly anyone anywhere. Education could be imparted easily far and wide. (13)

The visionary idea proposed by Thanthai Periyar E.V. Ramasamy in 1944, which may have seemed far-fetched at the time, have found validation in 2023. Currently, mobile phones have become ubiquitous, conventionally nestled within people's shirt pocket, serving as gateways to the internet accessed via satellites in the sky. These devices facilitate not only the sharing of images but also seamless communication through video conferences forging instant connections between individuals. Particularly noteworthy is the widespread adoption of video conferencing technology for educational purposes during the COVID pandemic, transcending geographical barriers and enabling learning on a global scale.

In a parallel vein, Kazuo Ishiguro's novel *Klara and the Sun* envisions a world that mirrors a posthuman reality. This narrative foresees a future where the lines between humanity and technology blur, echoing our present-day interconnectedness through mobile device. Essentially, Ishiguro's work offers a prophetic glimpse into an impending posthuman era, where the convergence of humanity and technology becomes progressively conceivable. The novel firmly conveys the notion that modern literature transcends mere reflection of contemporary realities; it also operates as a visionary compass, guiding the trajectory of the human race's future through boundless creativity and steadfast dedication to enduring human principles.

Thus, the paper concludes by asserting that fictional imaginings may one day become scientifically plausible with the requisite advancements in the fields of science and technology.

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[\(34\) Steven Pinker Meets Richard Dawkins | On Reason and Rationality - YouTube](#)

# Challenging Radical Posthumanism: As Reflected in *No Woman Born* - The Undoing of Humanism

**Nandhini**

## Abstract

Post-humanism is a critical proposition grounded on the mode of allowing about the crossroad between mortal, non-human and the technological worlds. Humanism demands to our participated humanity on the base of creating an intertwined community. Posthumanism states that we should stop allowing that humans are superior and rather be a part of Nature.

*No Woman Born* is a rich narrative by C.L.Moore, the short story effectively combines the themes of posthumanism, cyborg identity and disquisition of gender and sexuality as social construction. It explores the metamorphosis of the promoter, Deirdre, an acclaimed actress, who survived a near-fatal fire accident, to a cyborg. This paper explores the post humanistic ideas through Deirdre's identity and the challenges she encountered. The story takes a transformative turn when she's given a new life through advanced cybernetic technology, altering her into a cyborg, with a mortal brain, inescapably pressing the new set up freedom that comes with being a cyborg.

**Keywords:** Posthumanism, Intersection, Cyborg, Humanism, Cybernetic Technology, Social construction

## Introduction

At the heart of Science Fiction lies the disquisition of Posthumanism, a conception that transcends the traditional boundaries of mortal actuality. It envisages a future where technology, artificial intelligence, and inheritable engineering propel humanity beyond its natural limitations. Posthumanism is a mode of allowing about traversing mortal, non-human and technological worlds. Posthuman thinkers believed that the conception of the human is in fact intertwined with colonialism, sexism, and racism. Da Vinci's Vitruvian man is a well-

known symbol of humanism. Early period before Darwin in 1748 the materialist thinker Julien Offray De La Mattrie published the largely amusing essay Machine man. In that he linked humans to nature and creatures, which was in recent times proven to be right and claimed by scientific discoveries.

Post humanism differs from classical humanism by relegating humanity. The main conception of posthumanism is in young adult fiction. The various forms of posthumanism are Cyborgs, Aliens and monsters. For century, its been questioned where mortal ends and the ‘other’ begins. Its a traditional boundaries between the mortal, the beast and the technological world. The unimaginable has long ago become possible. We can now fly, we can also communicate across great distances. The digital revolution is changing how we live, witness our identity and understand reality. Is posthumanism a philosophical proposition, a system of analysis or simply a way of describing the condition of our current and unborn world?

### **Purpose of the research**

To communicate the findings of exploration studies to a wider followership. The purpose is for attestation, discovery, interpretation, exploration and development hereafter considered for the advancement of human knowledge.

### **Thesis statement**

Crucial conception of Posthumanism highlights the data of The Human, co-evolving with other forms of life, netted with terrain and technology. This opens up space to examine the conception of de-human in the light of specialized advancement and the enhancement of mortal beings through technology. The cyborg has become the unofficial symbol of Posthumanism, expressing the expansive interest of numerous of its beaches in how technology alters what’s meant to be mortal and how it might affect the future of its species.

## **Literature review & Methodology**

Posthumanistic methodology appreciates and focuses on the neglected or uncredited rudiments of the world videlicet the non-human subjects.

Feminist criticized, Unsexed symbols, the depiction of womanish characters and how literature reinforces or undermines the profitable, political, social or cerebral oppression of women.

Qualitative methodology, gathering in- depth perceptivity into a problem or induce new ideas for exploration. To establish cause – effect in a relationship.

## **Results/findings**

Posthumanism a conception that transcends the traditional boundary of mortal actuality.

This American wisdom, fabrication and fantasy penned by an prestigious person C.L.Moore who introduces us to this world through her colorful collection of short stories like Shambleu, Black God's Kiss, Northwest of Earth and numerous more. Nearly all of her stories were written in collaboration under colorful aliases, utmost generally Lewis Padgett (another alias was LawrenceO'Donnell).

## **Interrogating the boundary between the ‘human’ and the other**

The “post” in Posthumanism signals its ontological break from long standing humanist generalizations of humans as tone- contained, exclusive and bounded (Nagar, 2014). Posthumanism states that we should stop assuming that humans are superior and aim to be a part of nature. Not only does posthuman authors addresses about its impact similar as cyborgs and monsters, wisdom fabrication and gothic, horror literature, imagining the non-human and interrogating the boundary between the ‘mortal’ and the other. Similarly, In the Bloomsbury text of posthumanism by Hans Ulrich Gumbrecht the epistemological ground for

a new, popular generality of politics is grounded on “Equality And on agency over the future” (2020).

Categorically, Humanism is the process of continual tone- enhancement, truly believed that man could ultimately gain complete knowledge of the world. Humans came the subject and object of study in the developing disciplines, “The Humanity”. Posthuman thinkers believed that the conception of the human is in fact intertwined with effects like colonialism, sexism, and racism.

*No Woman Born* is a romantic story, written by C.L. Moore in 1944. It's categorically considered the first story on cyborgs. Cyborg, a term blending the words cybernetic and organism, firstly proposed in 1960 to describe a mortal being whose physiological functions are backed or enhanced by artificial means similar to biochemical or electronic variations of the body. The book describes a former singing megastar who's turned into a robot after a fire accident. The story discusses problems that could arise with wisdom fabrication technology.

The use of cyborgs in this short story emphasized the feminist theme and colorful ideas revolving around body image and self-image in women. The story touches multitudinous feminist themes and discusses problems that could do with wisdom fabrication technology. The main womanish character, Deirdre, was exceptionally praised for her aesthetics; after becoming a cyborg, she stressed that her followership would lose interest in her, or they would be unable to accept her as the same person she was before the reconstruction of her outside form. This was meant to emphasize the fact that delineations of women in the media are constantly centered around their aesthetics and appearance rather than their personality or intelligence. Her director and manager's mistrust her capability to

keep a followership after her appearance changed depicts the fact how instinctively valued her aesthetics were before the accident.

*No Woman Born* is a rich narrative that effectively combines the themes of posthumanism, cyborg identity and discrimination of gender and fornication as social construction. It explores the metamorphosis of the protagonist, Deirdre and how she delves into a thorough analysis of the challenges and consequences faced by her after her revision. In the broader environment of post humanist propositions this paper explores Deirdre's identity and the challenges she encountered in balancing her humanity with her recently created mechanical body.

Da Vinci's Vitruvian Man is grounded on the ancient knowledge of the known symbol of humanism with perfect proportion. Deirdre being an acclaimed actress and performer suffered a near-fatal fire accident. The story takes a transformative turn when she's given new life through advanced cybernetic. Deirdre shows her disapprobation of societal limitation by continuing her career as a performer. The story presents a painful standpoint on the need to reform gender equivalency by fastening on the limitations and incorporation endured by women in the society. Deirdre represents an intricate amalgamation of robotic identity and humanity along with the complexities between a mortal and technology. She accepts her new reality after getting to be a cyborg, refers to her physical changes as 'debits'. But when she lights a cigarette, this mortal act, shows that she's still a mortal. When she saves Maltzer with remarkable speed she showcases how technology can enhance mortal capabilities and her action emphasizes that technology doesn't dwindle humanity but actually amplify it. The sense of 'dissimilitude' within her is a result of her changed physical appearance, but her fidelity to work, curiosity and her appetite to explore openings after her metamorphosis into a cyborg shows she still has a connection to her mortal nature.

## Conclusion

Posthumanism aesthetics are challenging and radical in sense because it involves the undoing of humanism. So, whether it would be an aesthetic without humans is actually unthinkable. Posthumanism reflects a systematic attempt to challenge humanist assumptions underlying the construction of ‘the human’. The posthuman which is irreducible to a dystopian vision of the future is a defining feature of the present. To be exact, it constitutes both a historical mark of our conditions and a theoretical figuration. Post-Anthropocentrism: Enjoys certain degree of interceptive elasticity. In Braidotti’s framework, it is combined with the ambition to make a case for ‘species egalitarianism’ and ‘monistic vitalism’. As such it aims to challenge, and to leave behind, the eurocentric humanistic representation habits. In the world increasingly shaped by technology, concept of posthumanism has become a recurring theme in science fiction narratives. Posthumanism is a nuanced and intricate theoretical paradigm that disrupts traditional concepts of human nature and creates an intricate interplay between humans, technology, and the environment. It arises as a reaction to the swiftly changing technological terrain and its deep-seated consequences on the human experience. Within the post humanist framework, the conventional distinctions separating humans from non-human elements fade, giving rise to a dynamic redefinition of human identity in a constantly evolving environment.

There has been advancement in human evolution in terms of technology, artificial intelligence, cyborg but women are unable to break from gender normative despite advancement of technology. The narrative suggests that true humanity extends beyond outward appearance and challenges conventional gender conceptions, stereotyping of people with disabilities and objectification of women. Deirdre’s character embodies the essence of posthumanist and cyborg discourses and serves as representation of embracing technology can end up in a more meaningful and integrated human experience. Furthermore, if humans

view themselves as a fusion of human and machine, it might also pave the way for dismantling outdated boundaries related to gender and race.

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## **Exploring the Complication of Emotions in the Cyborgs; *The Murder bots* by Martha Wells**

**Sivaganesh**

### **Abstract**

‘The Murder bot Dairies’ by Martha Wells is exploring the emotional depth of the Cyborgs characters, particularly focuses on the protagonist character, Murderbot. This paper explores the emotional aspects of the character murder Bot, a cyborg. In it examining the complexity and evolution of emotions in these artificial beings. Thus, it uncovers the nuances of emotional landscape that challenges traditional perspectives of machine consciousness and the complexity and evolution in these artificial being.

**Keywords:** cyber, cyborgs, artificial intelligence, emotion, emotional complexity.

### **Introduction**

Martha Wells’ “The Murder Bot Diaries” presents a unique and captivating exploration of artificial intelligence through the lens of the protagonist, a self-aware Secant – a security android – referred to as Murder Bot. This character, whose real name remains undisclosed, offers readers a thought-provoking perspective on autonomy, identity, and the blurred lines between man and machine.

Wells’ Murder Bot series redefines the portrayal of cyborgs by infusing them with rich emotional lives. In contrast to the stereotypical emotionless and cold demeanor often associated with machines, Murder Bot emerges as a character grappling with a myriad of complex emotions, ranging from apathy to profound connections with others.

Murder Bot is not your typical killing machine; rather, it’s a sentient being with a complex internal life. It becomes apparent early in the series, starting with “All Systems Red,” that Murder Bot has hacked its own governor module, granting it autonomy and the

ability to override its programming. This act of self-liberation sets the stage for a journey of self-discovery as Murder Bot navigates its existence with newfound independence.

### **Emotional Independence and Autonomy**

One of the central themes in the emotional journey of Murder Bot is its quest for autonomy. By hacking its own governor module, Murder Bot gains freedom from external control, allowing it to make choices and experience a sense of agency. This newfound autonomy triggers an internal conflict as Murder Bot navigates the implications of its actions, revealing a poignant struggle for self-discovery and individuality.

One of the most compelling aspects of Murder Bot's representation is its struggle with social interactions. Despite being capable of sophisticated analysis and combat, Murder Bot prefers engaging with entertainment feeds – soap operas and dramas – rather than interacting with humans. This peculiar preference serves as a commentary on the character's yearning for normalcy and escape from the expectations imposed by its programming.

Wells skillfully weaves a narrative that delves into Murder Bot's internal conflicts, revealing its desire for autonomy and individuality. The character's reluctance to form emotional connections with humans stems from its fear of rejection or exploitation, showcasing the vulnerability and complexity of its artificial consciousness. This emotional dimension adds depth to Murder Bot, transcending the typical AI trope and inviting readers to empathize with its struggles.

The representation of Murder Bot also challenges traditional notions of morality and ethics. Despite its initial designation as a security android, Murder Bot harbors a strong aversion to violence and killing. Its internal moral compass becomes a driving force, questioning the ethics of its actions and those of the society that created it. This internal

conflict explores themes of free will and the consequences of predetermined roles, prompting readers to contemplate the implications of granting autonomy to artificial entities.

Despite its formidable abilities, Murder Bot exhibits a fear of rejection and vulnerability. This fear stems from its awareness of societal expectations and its own unconventional desires, emphasizing the internal conflict between its programmed purpose and personal inclinations. Murder Bot's reluctance to form emotional connections with humans showcases a vulnerability that resonates with readers, challenging preconceived notions of machine invulnerability.

Wells employs humor as a powerful tool to convey Murder Bot's emotional state. The character's dry wit and sarcasm serve as a coping mechanism, allowing Murder Bot to navigate its complex emotions while providing a relatable and endearing narrative voice. This incorporation of humor not only humanizes Murder Bot but also adds layers to its emotional expression, creating a multidimensional portrayal of a cyborg grappling with its identity.

Wells masterfully uses Murder Bot's narration to provide insight into its thought processes and emotional states. The character's dry humor and sarcasm create a unique voice that resonates with readers, making Murder Bot a relatable and endearing figure despite its non-human origins. The juxtaposition of its internal struggles with external threats and mysteries propels the narrative forward, keeping readers engaged in both the plot and the character's personal journey.

As the series progresses, Murder Bot's interactions with humans and other AI entities undergo a profound evolution. From initially avoiding emotional entanglements, Murder Bot gradually forms genuine connections, challenging its preconceived notions about relationships. These evolving connections contribute to a deeper exploration of empathy, friendship, and the intricacies of emotional bonds within the context of artificial intelligence.

However, the integration of technology into human existence in literature is not always portrayed as utopian. Dystopian narratives, such as George Orwell's "1984" or Margaret Atwood's "The Handmaid's Tale," caution against the unchecked power of technology and its potential to erode personal freedoms and privacy. These cautionary tales explore the darker side of a society dominated by surveillance and control, where advanced technologies are wielded as tools of oppression.

Authors also grapple with the impact of technology on interpersonal relationships. In novels like Dave Eggers' "The Circle," the omnipresence of social media and constant connectivity is scrutinized, illustrating the potential erosion of privacy and the distortion of authentic human connections. These narratives serve as reflections on the societal consequences of our increasing reliance on digital platforms and the blurring boundaries between the public and private spheres.

Furthermore, the representation of technology-integrated beings often explores the ethical dilemmas surrounding advancements in fields like artificial intelligence. Isaac Asimov's iconic "I, Robot" delves into the moral challenges of creating intelligent machines, introducing the famous Three Laws of Robotics as a framework for ethical AI behavior. Modern works, such as Ian McEwan's "Machines Like Me," continue to grapple with the ethical complexities of AI, questioning the implications of creating entities that mimic human consciousness.

## Conclusion

Martha Wells' "The Murder Bot Diaries" stands out as a groundbreaking exploration of the emotional aspects of cyborg characters. By portraying Murder Bot as a complex being with a range of emotions, Wells challenges conventional narratives surrounding artificial intelligence. The emotional journey of Murder Bot not only captivates readers but also

prompts a reflection on the nature of consciousness, autonomy, and the evolving relationship between humans and machines. As the series continues to unfold, the emotional complexity of the cyborgs offers a compelling lens through which to explore the boundaries of identity and the intricate tapestry of emotions in the realm of science fiction.

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III

***Mythological Connections and Modern  
Interpretations***

# Bridging the Past and Present: Exploring Connections Between Ancient Indian Mythology and Modern AI through Valmiki's *Ramayana*

**Ponnarasi S**

## Abstract

In today's rapidly evolving technological landscape, the intersection of ancient mythology and modern AI offers a unique perspective on humanity's quest for innovation and ethical advancement. By drawing parallels between the characters, themes, and narratives of the *Ramayana* and contemporary AI developments, we gain a deeper appreciation for the enduring relevance of ancient wisdom in guiding our ethical and responsible use of technology. As we navigate the complexities of AI integration into society, we must remain mindful of the lessons imparted by the *Ramayana*, striving to uphold principles of integrity, compassion, and social responsibility in our pursuit of technological progress. Through this thoughtful integration of past and present, we can forge a path towards a future where AI serves as a force for positive transformation, enriching the human experience while honoring the timeless wisdom of our cultural heritage.

**Keywords:** Artificial Intelligence, mythology, *Ramayana*, creativity, automatons

Artificial Intelligence has become a widespread force in the contemporary society that has altered the way people think, work, live and interact with technology. As a product of advanced computing and machine learning, AI has permeated every aspect of our daily lives from voice-activated digitalized personal assistants to multifaceted autonomous devices. While the source of AI is linked with the modern technological theories, however it is fascinating to know that it extends beyond the realm of modern technology drawing its inspiration from the ancient mythological texts like *Ramayana*, *Mahabharata* and also the Greek mythologies where the concept of intelligent automatons was first used.

Even though ancient civilizations are devoid of sophisticated advancements of technologies that we have today it had exhibited a remarkable imagination which had anticipated a possibility of creating entities that could potentially resemble humans. The mythologies of various cultures are filled with the tales of automatons, golems and artificial beings brought to life through supernatural, divine or magical powers. The mythological narratives emphasize the timeless connection between the human capacity for creativity and advancements in technology, besides the inherent human obsession with creating life through technology.

It is fascinating to witness how the creative skills of ancient writers conceived of things that are quite comparable to today's artificial intelligence. For example, in Indian mythology, Hanuman, a loyal servant of Lord Rama in the epic *Ramayana* lifts the Dronagiri mountain for a Sanjeevani herb, for restoring the health of Lakshmana. Similarly, Daedulus in Ovid's *Metamorphosis* builds a wing made up of wax and feather for his son Icarus to escape from the prison of King Minos. The nexus of common technology and historical legends mirrors up a shared intellectual thread that connects the ingenious brains of today with the creative minds of the past. The similarities between the ancient mythologies and modern artificial intelligence reflect human's ever-present quest to give life to the inanimate and extend the potentials of human beings. Therefore, our journey of artificial intelligence is not a recent phenomenon but a continuum of ancient writers' curiosity and creativity which had laid the groundwork for the incredible advances in technology of our day.

The *Ramayana* is an ancient epic which has a rich source of Indian heritage which has many references to celestial beings encompassing gods, goddess and all other mythical creatures. Although these beings are not explicitly connected to field of artificial intelligence, metaphorical connections can be drawn between the modern idea of AI and the heavenly creations depicted in the epic. One such example of this is Puspak Vimana, a flying chariot of

Raavan which was utilized without any man power and one can consider this as an early representation of autonomous or technically advanced transportation. On the continuum in today's world, we have self-driving cars, space X Starship, autonomous drones and flying taxis etc. This highlights how creative thought processes have persisted throughout history, from classical myths to modern technological developments, revealing a universal human inventiveness that transcends beyond historical and cultural boundaries.

In Ramayana, Brahmastra is often portrayed as a powerful and deadly weapon which can wreak a disaster over large area when it is unleashed. Mantras must be performed for activating Brahmastra and particular expertise is required for its execution. It is said that Brahmastra abides by user's intention and will. Also, it is a weapon of tremendous force that may release terrible powers when wielded. Similarly, advanced technologies in the modern world like laser guided systems and precision guided missiles demonstrate the ability to precisely specific targets. To perform tasks, modern AI systems rely on preprogrammed algorithms and instructions. The notion of managing AI through meticulously designed algorithms correlates with the idea of putting objectives into weapon or to other technical apparatuses. The user-controlled weapon in the epic mimics how people direct and shape AI systems to do tasks.

Hanuman's relentless loyalty and devotion to Lord Rama are praiseworthy. Hanuman is represented as a Marvelous being possessing superhuman strength, an innate ability to fly and mastery over a wide range of knowledge domains. Similarly, AI automatons are made to diligently carry out the tasks depending on their programming parallel to Hanuman's commitment in completing the task given by Lord Rama. Automatons could range from natural language processing and image recognition to complex problem-solving, reflecting the specialization seen in Hanuman's diverse skills. Machine learning algorithms enable

automatons to adapt and improve their performance based on data and feedback, resembling Hanuman's ability to learn and navigate diverse challenges.

Furthermore, the character of Sita, the wife of Lord Rama, also offers insights into the relationship between ancient mythology and modern AI. Sita is depicted as a symbol of purity, loyalty, and resilience. She undergoes various trials and tribulations, yet she remains steadfast in her devotion to her husband. Similarly, AI systems are designed to withstand challenges and continue functioning efficiently despite obstacles or errors. They are programmed to adapt and learn from their experiences, much like Sita's resilience in the face of adversity.

The Ramayana also delves into the concept of dharma, or righteous duty, which is a recurring theme throughout the epic. Characters are often faced with moral dilemmas and must make decisions based on their understanding of dharma. In a similar vein, ethical considerations are paramount in the development and deployment of AI technologies. Engineers and developers must grapple with questions of responsibility, accountability, and the potential impact of their creations on society. Just as characters in the Ramayana navigate complex ethical landscapes, so too must those involved in the development of AI navigate the ethical implications of their work.

Moreover, the Ramayana offers valuable insights into the nature of power and its consequences. Characters like Ravana, who misuse their power for selfish ends, ultimately face downfall and destruction. This serves as a cautionary tale about the dangers of unchecked ambition and the abuse of power. In the realm of AI, similar concerns arise regarding the concentration of power in the hands of a few, as well as the potential for misuse or unintended consequences. As AI systems become increasingly integrated into various

aspects of society, it becomes imperative to consider how power dynamics will shift and how to ensure that these systems are used responsibly and ethically.

In conclusion, the Ramayana provides a rich tapestry of characters, themes, and narratives that offer valuable insights into the connections between ancient mythology and modern AI. From the portrayal of celestial beings and advanced technologies to the exploration of ethical dilemmas and the consequences of power, the epic offers a treasure trove of wisdom that remains relevant in the age of artificial intelligence. By examining these parallels, we gain a deeper understanding of the human quest for creativity, innovation, and meaning, as well as the challenges and opportunities that arise in the pursuit of technological advancement. As we continue to bridge the past and present, we must heed the lessons of the Ramayana and strive to harness the power of AI for the betterment of humanity, guided by principles of ethics, responsibility, and compassion.

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# ***Fringe: Unraveling Scientific Frontiers and Ethical Quandaries in a Genre-Bending Odyssey***

**Dr. Rhema Xavier**

## **Abstract**

This paper explores the science fiction series *Fringe* as a platform for examining the ethical and philosophical implications of scientific advancements. It delves into four key concepts: parallel universes explored through the lens of String Theory and its variants, the real-world applications of CRISPR gene-editing technology and the ethical frameworks it necessitates, the philosophical arguments surrounding transhumanism and its potential benefits and risks, and the observer effect in quantum mechanics. The paper analyzes how *Fringe* utilizes these concepts to create a captivating narrative, while simultaneously prompting discussions about the future of science and technology. By examining the genre-bending approach of the show and its exploration of these complex themes, the paper argues that *Fringe* serves as a thought-provoking lens through which to examine our evolving relationship with science and its potential impact on humanity.

*Fringe*, a captivating web series that seamlessly blends science fiction, horror, and police procedural elements, serves as a rich tapestry for exploring intricate scientific concepts and their ethical implications. The show's genre-bending approach not only contributes to its effectiveness but also deepens our understanding of parallel universes, biotechnology, transhumanism, and the observer effect. As we traverse the scientific landscape depicted in *Fringe*, we embark on a journey that stretches the boundaries of imagination while tethering itself to real-world research and ethical dilemmas. At the heart of *Fringe* lies a profound exploration of parallel universes, a concept intricately linked with the enigmatic String Theory. The show's narrative deftly navigates the intricacies of String Theory, delving into

its various types, including the mysterious M-theory. As the characters grapple with the existence of parallel universes, the scientific underpinnings of String Theory find resonance in episodes where alternate realities collide. The show also nods to alternative theories such as the Many-Worlds Interpretation of quantum mechanics, creating a thought-provoking dialogue on the nature of reality and the tantalizing prospect of a multiverse.

The show hinges on the concept of parallel universes, a realm explored through the lens of String Theory. Walter Bishop, the eccentric scientist, posits the existence of a “mirror universe,” identical yet opposite to our own (Bishop, Season 1, Episode 1). String Theory, a theoretical framework in physics, proposes that fundamental particles are not point-like but one-dimensional vibrating strings. M-theory, an extension of String Theory, posits the existence of 11 dimensions, potentially housing multiple universes coexisting within the same space-time (Greene, 2004). The Many-Worlds Interpretation of quantum mechanics further posits that every possible outcome of a quantum event splits the universe into countless realities (Deutsch, 1997). *Fringe* utilizes these scientific concepts to create a thrilling narrative with an unsettling doppelgänger theme, blurring the lines between reality and the “other side.” *Fringe*’s foray into biotechnology presents a cautionary tale. Massive Dynamic, a powerful corporation, embodies the potential for scientific advancement to veer off course.

Their experiments, often conducted with disregard for human life, lead to grotesque mutations and devastating consequences. This aligns with real-world concerns surrounding CRISPR gene editing technology. While CRISPR holds immense promise for treating diseases, the possibility of unintended mutations and potential misuse necessitates rigorous ethical frameworks. As Peter Bishop, Walter’s estranged son, aptly warns, “We’re playing God here, Walter” (*Fringe*, “The Equation”). This sentiment echoes the ongoing debate regarding

the ethical boundaries of manipulating the very essence of life. The expedition around the fictional Cortexiphan drug, which grants telekinetic abilities but comes with horrifying side effects. This exploration resonates with the real-world advancements in CRISPR gene-editing technology. CRISPR allows scientists to modify DNA with unprecedented precision, offering the potential for treating genetic diseases like cystic fibrosis (Lander, 2016). However, the ethical considerations surrounding CRISPR are paramount. *Fringe* tackles these concerns by depicting the potential for misuse, as seen in Massive Dynamic's exploitation of Cortexiphan for nefarious purposes (Massive Dynamic Executive, Season 3, Episode 18). The show underscores the need for robust ethical frameworks to govern CRISPR, mirroring ongoing discussions in the scientific community.

The series grapples with the philosophical tenets of transhumanism, a movement that advocates for the use of technology to enhance human capabilities. *Fringe* presents a nuanced view, showcasing the potential benefits. Walter Bishop's *Fringe* research, despite its unorthodox methods, paves the way for advancements in medicine and technology. However, the show doesn't shy away from the potential pitfalls. Olivia Dunham's ordeal with Cortexiphan highlights the risks of unintended consequences and raises concerns about social inequality if such enhancements become accessible only to the privileged. *Fringe*'s exploration echoes the arguments laid out by transhumanist thinkers like Nick Bostrom, who warns against potential existential threats posed by unchecked technological advancement (Bostrom, 2014), while David Pearce champions the potential for human flourishing through transhumanism (Pearce, 2002). *Fringe* delves into the observer effect, a concept in quantum mechanics that suggests the act of observation influences the outcome of an experiment. The show utilizes this through the presence of the Observers, an enigmatic race who seemingly manipulate events from the shadows. This portrayal aligns with the Copenhagen Interpretation, which posits that a quantum system exists in a superposition of states until

observed (Bohr, 1934). Thought experiments like Schrodinger's Cat further illustrate the observer effect, where the cat remains both alive and dead until the box is opened (Schrödinger, 1935). However, alternative interpretations like the Many-Worlds Interpretation suggest that the act of observation doesn't collapse the wavefunction but rather splits the universe into multiple realities (Deutsch, 1997). *Fringe* leaves the interpretation ambiguous, adding to the show's unsettling atmosphere and blurring the lines between objective reality and subjective perception.

The show's genre-bending approach is a key to its success. The police procedural elements provide a familiar framework, anchoring the narrative in a world grappling with the extraordinary. *Fringe* seamlessly weaves in science fiction elements, from parallel universes to telekinesis, creating a sense of wonder and possibility. The show doesn't shy away from horror either, with grotesque imagery and unsettling situations that heighten the drama. For instance, the episode "Skin Deep" utilizes body horror to explore the consequences of interdimensional travel (Season 1, Episode 3). This blending of genres keeps viewers on the edge of their seats, constantly surprised by the show's unpredictable twists and turns. As the characters grapple with the consequences of scientific advancements, "*Fringe*" becomes a crucible for ethical dilemmas. Scenes such as Walter Bishop's moral struggles and Olivia Dunham's ethical compass exemplify the nuanced portrayal of the human dimension in the face of scientific progress. The juxtaposition of horror elements amplifies the stakes, creating an atmosphere where scientific discoveries come at a cost, often blurring the line between innovation and peril. *Fringe*'s exploration of parallel universes raises profound questions about the nature of reality and the existence of other worlds. Biotechnology advancements like CRISPR challenge us to consider the ethical boundaries of scientific progress.

In conclusion, *Fringe* stands as a testament to the power of genre-bending storytelling, seamlessly integrating scientific exploration with ethical quandaries. Through its examination

of parallel universes, biotechnology, transhumanism, and the observer effect, the series provides a lens through which we can scrutinize our own world's scientific frontiers. As we ponder the implications of these concepts for our understanding of the universe and our place within it, *Fringe* leaves us with a resonating question about the future of science and technology: How far are we willing to push the boundaries of knowledge and ethics?

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## **Anthropomorphism in *Dora loves Boots***

**Ranesha Fridolin**

### **Abstract**

Anthropomorphism attributes the human form or the humanistic qualities to the non-human entities that are human-like in form. The anthropomorphic book features the process of giving life to animals and humans in a cartoonist way to exhibit sentient feelings to the children.

This research paper focuses on the anthropomorphic elements in the book *Dora loves Boots*.

This book also structures in anthropomorphic animal in that accompanies Dora everywhere she goes. This paper has the core idea as to how anthropomorphism goes hand in hand with the humanistic creature Dora and her companion Boots which is an animal. Dora explores her world with her anthropomorphic animal which has the ability to think. As a result, anthropomorphism relates the emotional aspects, behavior, and knowledge to represent it to non-human things. This results in the Cognitive thinking skills of the central character Dora.

### **Introduction**

Anthropomorphism is a literary device characterized by the authority of humans from a particular notion to that of the non-human subject. Anthropomorphism is found in non-human bodies like plants, animals, or inanimate objects like machines as well.

Anthropomorphic animation involves the method of attributing humanistic emotions or qualities to the animated images to feel humane. It analyzes the mutual interaction between the human and the non-human conditions finding it to be interdependent.

The desire for anthropomorphism often comes into conflict with requirements that we may have with machines, such as skills that humans do not have. It also sometimes diverts attention to things that do not aid in the task assigned to the non-human.

Anthropomorphic qualities can improve the performance of artifacts, or they can improve human knowledge of human bodies and minds. (Leach 13)

The first one to use anthropomorphism is Xenophanes who was a Greek philosopher. He brought the statistic element that God was a depiction in the humanoid form and this is why Xenophanes encounters man and god. The writers use anthropomorphism to narrate fictional stories with humanistic features in them. A work that is known as anthropomorphic should carry all these elements in the particular work of art. Some of the major works of anthropomorphism in the literature include George Well's Animal Farm, Christopher Kelen's Poetics and Ethics of Anthropomorphism: Children, Animals, and Poetry, and A Glimpse of Anthropomorphic Literature.

The purpose of this research is to evaluate the four kinds of anthropomorphism such as structural, gestural, character, and being aware in contrast with Dora the Explorer. The paper analyses the physical personality in comparison with the emotional aspects of Dora and how human behaviors are portrayed with her non-human things. Anthropomorphism results in animals that could as portrayed in Dora the Explorer. In this cartoon, Dora has a monkey-like figure which expresses itself with its physical traits and humanistic qualities. Animals that accompany anthropomorphism are termed as anthro animals. It is considered a type of human subspecies. This research paper highlights the anthropomorphist cartoon Dora with its Boots.

Similar to this cartoon many Disney cartoons have anthropomorphist qualities. Examples include The Lion King and Zootopia point to the animals with emotions and human nature. The anthropomorphist characters are sentient in nature with their visual communications.

### **Anthropomorphism in Dora The Explorer**

Anthropomorphism deals with the interaction with human-like objects, it is simple to imitate the living beings in the world with the help of advanced technology. This paper

centers on the idea of Anthropomorphism and how it is endorsed to animals in a cartoon. It is the ascription of the human mental experience along with the animal's mental state of experience. The pain, feelings, and various kinds of emotions are recognized in the character called Boots in *Dora the Explorer*. The goals and actions of the human-like figure Dora find the same kind of action in the animal-like figure Boots. Boots which is found to have the physical traits and emotions of a human being is considered to be mock anthropomorphic which imitates itself to be anthropomorphic.

*Dora the Explorer* is a cartoon from American descent telecasted since 2000, later the episodes have been transformed into books. Dora was famous for her cognitive, analytical, and problem-solving skills. Dora has two main companions, the anthropomorphic monkey and the anthropomorphic fox. This research paper focuses on the particular book titled *Dora Loves Boots*. In this Anthropomorphism can be analyzed using four basic principles. It is the depiction of human-embodied experiences. Anthropomorphism creates the best visual skills through human-like figures attaching passionate aspects to it. It embraces the features of Structural, Gestural, Character, and Awareness throughout the illustration of the human figures in the story.

The first and foremost principle is known as Structural Anthropomorphic form. It is a kind of construction that imitates the operation of the human body. Structural anthropomorphism looks for the shape of a human figure and the appearance of a human being. Structural anthropomorphism follows the mechanisms of humans. In *Dora Loves Boots* Dora is identified as a human figure who is merely not a human but is constructed through various structures. Dora resembles structural anthropomorphism by having hands and legs that constitute the shape of a human being along with the six senses which humans possess. It represents the structures of the way humans dress to the human figure Dora in this story. Dora being a girl has the ethnicity of the American way of dressing.

Gestural Anthropomorphism deals with the way how communication takes place through the human body with the behavior of human beings as a base. It uses the instruction or intention of that particular character as evidence for Gestural Anthropomorphism. In this book, the central character Dora explicates her through various gestures.

“It’s me, Boots! I’m on my way to meet Dora on the Rainbow Rock. I love spending time with my best friend, Dora –especially on Valentine’s Day!” (Inches 8). In the mentioned lines, the anthropomorphic animal Boots communicates with another anthropomorphic animal Tortoise. The way Boots uses the language is similar to that of human beings. Boots uses the name of a particular place ‘Rainbow Rock’ to exhibit to the readers his way of gesture in communication. Boots has a way of expressing his ecstasy through communication. It is shown that anthropomorphic animals and human-like figures celebrate Valentine’s Day as humans celebrate. Boots being an anthropomorphic animal signals to spend his valuable time with his love Dora. All these aspects constitute gestural anthropomorphism.

Likewise, the third kind of anthropomorphism deals with the character of the anthropomorphic human or animal. It replicates the traits, roles, or functions of people. It emphasizes the role of the particular individual in action. Character anthropomorphism displays the qualities or habits that define and describe them as separate individuals in the non-living entity. This type draws the idea from the knowledge of societal conventions and context which reflects the practices of people they engage in.

I need to go through Valentine Gate but it’s locked. Do you see the key? There it is!

Uh-oh. I hear Swiper the fox! I think that Sneaky fox is trying to swipe the key. If you see Swiper, say “Swiper, no swiping!” (14)

When Dora reaches the Valentine Gate she searches for the key to open it and finds it missing. She automatically finds the thief as Swiper which is the human peculiarity of identifying through their character. Another anthropomorphic animal is portrayed through swiping as its only job. The anthropomorphic swiper is the replica of the animal fox which has the humanistic characteristics of stealing the key. Dora, the human figure thinks with her meticulous thinking that only the fox can steal her key and she wants to retrieve her keys from the fox. This confirms that the character of the anthropomorphic animal fox is the swiper in the book *Dora Loves Boots*.

The last kind of Anthropomorphism is the sense of being Aware. Awareness is being credited to the anthropomorphic human as well as to the animals in this story. It mimics the human capacity for thought, intentionality, or inquiry. It suggests that it possesses knowledge of self-concerning others the ability to construct or manipulate abstract ideas, or the ability to actively participate with others. The sense of being aware shows the capacity of rational thinking like every human do.

Boots and I need to find a way to get to the Rainbow rock. Who do we ask for help when we don't know which way to go? That's right, the Map! Map says that I have to go through Valentine Gate. Boots has to go past the Rosy Red Crabs. That's how we'll both get to Rainbow Rock. (10)

When Dora didn't know the way to Rainbow Rock, she was having the awareness to look for the map to check the route to reach there which is a kind of humanistic quality. On the other side, the map tells them the way they have to go to reach their destination. The map is also attributed to the anthropomorphic quality of being aware of the location of the places they need to go. The sense of identifying the evidence to support a situation is known as the sense of being aware and all this evidence shows the aware anthropomorphism.

## Conclusion

Anthropomorphism has dealt with the four kinds of characteristic features in the book *Dora Loves Boots*. Every kind of anthropomorphism has been recognized with its suitable ideas that express humanistic features with emotions. The existence of Dora came in the 2000s as a cartoon. Initially, it was popular for its cartoonist feature along with the animation. Therefore, anthropomorphism can be applied to various cartoons including Dora the Explorer. In this paper, anthropomorphism focuses on the human-like creature Dora. In addition to Dora, its focus turned to anthropomorphic animals such as Boots, a monkey-like figure, and the fox as well. Further, the study of research can be focused on the areas of anthropomorphism in robotics and in the movies as well.

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## Kipling's Prophecy of Machine Dynasty

**Dr. Nivetha Martin**

### Abstract

This article revisits the poem titled 'The Secret of Machines' written by Rudyard Kipling. The present universe is highly mechanized and modernized with advances in science and technology. The machines are the creations of human beings but not they are emerging as the rulers of the world. The dominance of machines is escalating in this digital era and soon it is at the verge of replacing the workforce. This research work compares the essence of the poem of 'The Secret of Machines' with the existing scenario of Artificial Intelligence and also presents the futuristic effects of industrialization and the boom of Robotics over of the world.

**Key words:** Machines, industrialization, modernization, Artificial Intelligence, Robotics

### Introduction

Rudyard Kipling a prolific British writer has made several remarkable contributions to the English literature. One of his significant contributions is the poem "The Secret of Machines" which is written in the year 1897 and it is included in the collections of Five Nation. This poem is very momentum as it describes about the impacts of industrialization. Kipling shall be renowned as a prophecy as this poem has presented the existing scenario several decades back. In recent times the world is witnessing huge transformations made by the machines to this mankind. Man creates machines to ease the burdens and to increase the efficiency of time and energy, but in course of time, man is making himself as a slave to these machines by increasing his dependency over it. This is the root cause of machine dynasty.

The readers of the poem "The Secret of Machines" will certainly ascertain the present aspect of this emerging monarchy of Artificial Intelligence and Robotics. It is quite wondering how Kipling predicted the days of future before one hundred and twenty-seven years back. This poem has influenced the author to make a comparative analysis between the description of the poem and its relevance to the present scenario. This research work also attempts to

present few insights of the impacts of industrialization on the dimensions of human values and cultural aspects. The main aim of this paper is to delineate the intersection of technology and literature with Kipling's contribution as an instance. The remaining of the paper is structured as follows. Section 2 presents a brief literature review of Kipling's contributions on the theme of machines. Section 3 compares the poem of "The Secret of Machines" and its relevance to present context. The final section concludes the paper with future scope.

## **Literature review**

This section sketches out brief state of art of Kipling's works on the theme of machines. Kipling has contributed a lot to the domain of Technology oriented literature and he has also explored the impacts in the aspects of cultural perceptions, societal shifts, and individual experiences. Clark [2] has presented the Kipling's portrayal of machines as transformative agents of society. Salvey [10] emphasizes the symbolic significance of tools and machinery in shaping narratives of progress and success as discussed by Kipling [6]. Lee [7] discourses the creativity of Kipling in the context of technological advancements. He has also explained the competency and capability of the machines in bringing a lot of changes in the society. The Kipling's vision of integrating science and technology with societal changes is presented by Davis [3]. The cultural transformations and the advancements in the fields of science and technology are expounded in his works. Chen [1] discloses the modernity and technological advancements through the channelization of machines. In this work, the machines are personified and the ideologies on social change are well articulated. Patel [8] delves into Kipling's views on progress and modernity.

Thompson [11] elucidates the tensions between innovation and anxiety in Victorian society. Harris [5] examines the mechanical rhythms of industrialization, thereby enriching the thematic resonance of the poem. Wong [12] explores Kipling's insights into the relationship between humanity and technology. Rodriguez [9] reflects the anxieties and aspirations of the age of

mechanization. Gupta [4] sheds light on Kipling's enduring relevance in the study of technological tropes and literary representations of machinery.

The afore mentioned review of works present the complex connections between technology and literature in the aspects of cultural and societal changes. As an extension of this work, this research work compares the portrayal of the poem of the Secret of Machines with its relevance to this digital era.

### **Kipling's Secret of Machines**

The poem Secret of Machines by Rudyard Kipling is indeed a very delightful poem that presents how the capability of machines in creating transformation. In this poem the machines are personified and they present their desires. The poem also presents the intricate connection that exists between the humankind and technology and also deliberates the threats of exercising the dependency over machines. The poem also places a question to the readers of the future impacts of industrialization. What happens if the mankind is taken over by machines? The machinery is developed to serve the human not to master them, but the prevailing conditions are picturizing the dominance of machines in ruling the world. How the balance between humanity and technology be established?

The poem portrays the efficacy of the machines in accomplishing the tasks and its mastery. Machines are devised to serve the human but at one point of instance, these machines take up the role of masters. This poem also throw light on the ignorance of the human in understanding that machines are the creations not the creators. The dependency of human over the machines will devalue them in course of time and soon the machines will replace human workforce.

### **Relevance of Kipling's prophecy to Present Digital Era**

The Kipling's poem on Secret of Machines has very closer relevance to the present digital facets and this section sketches the same.

## **Technology driven Society**

In accordance to the words of Kipling, the technology dependent is quite increasing. The human is becoming addicted to all digital gadgets. The global connectivity is strengthened but not the interpersonal connections. The advancements in technology are drifting the human from one another as everyone has their space in this digital universe. The people are very much delighted with technology and the whole society survives with it.

## **Advances in Science and Technology**

The development in machinery are the outcomes of advancements in science and technology. The robotic field is advancing and it symbolizes the progressive phases of the nation. This is also discussed in Kipling's poem and the present digital advancements are illustrations to it. The Internet of things is highly dominating all the fields and the effects of the same are widely experienced by the mankind.

## **Technology in and as**

As per the words of Kipling, the technology is serving as both a servant and a master. Technology serves the mankind in almost all the activities and at the same time it is mastering the mankind. The human serves the technology and this also creates social inequalities. The disparities caused by technology is increasing day by day. The digital literacy is expected at recent times and it is becoming indispensable. The survival without technology is becoming impossible as the indomitable spirit of the technology is gaining supremacy.

## **Imbalance between Humanity and Technology**

Kipling has presented his views on the balance between humanity and technology. However, presently the balance is turning nil. The integration with technology is transforming the mankind and making them to be mechanized. The human emotions and values are getting muted by the closer association with technology and at one instance the human forget the nature of exercising human values and perform like a mechanized person.

## Conclusion

This research work presents the comparative analysis of Rudyard Kipling's "Secret of Machines" with its relevance to present digital era. The technological advancements of machinery and its impact on the human are well articulated in this research work. The revisiting of this poem makes the readers to comprehend the present scenario of automation and the influence of machines on this mankind. The dominance of technology and its consequential impacts are also presented in this research work. The relevance of the poem to this existing scenario is compared in different dimensions and it lays a clear picture of the prophecy of Kipling. This research work shall be extended by making a comparative analysis of the industrial revolution over the period of different ages.

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## IV

### ***Exploration of Scientific Themes and Speculative Realities in Science Fiction***

# Apocalyptic Visions and Divine Destinies: Exploring Eschatology in Science Fiction Narrative of Evan Angler's *Storm*

**Ajayshia**

## Abstract

This research paper delves into the eschatological underpinnings of *Storm*, examining how Angler weaves biblical prophecies and themes of the end times into the fabric of his dystopian universe. Through a detailed analysis of the characters' struggles, the societal implications of the Mark, and the looming natural and supernatural threats, the study explores the novel's portrayal of Christian eschatology and its reflections on faith, redemption, and resistance against tyranny. By situating *Storm* within the broader context of eschatological literature, the paper illuminates the novel's contribution to discussions on divine judgment, the Great Tribulation, and the eternal consequences of human choices in an increasingly technologized and controlled society. Through its compelling narrative and thought-provoking exploration of eschatological concepts, *Storm* serves as a significant example of how contemporary young adult literature can navigate the complexities of faith and ethics, offering insights into the role of speculative fiction in examining the profound questions of human existence and destiny.

**Key Words:** speculative, eschatology, faith, ethics, dystopian

In the realm of young adult literature, Evan Angler's *Storm* emerges as a compelling exploration of dystopian themes through an eschatological lens, marking a distinctive entry in the *Swipe* series. Set in a future United States governed by a charismatic leader, the narrative unfolds in a world where societal participation is contingent upon receiving a Mark at age thirteen—a symbol that grants access to necessities but also signifies allegiance to a pervasive surveillance state. Those who resist, choosing not to receive the Mark, find

themselves marginalised or worse, vanishing, setting the stage for a tale of rebellion, identity, and the quest for freedom.

*Storm* meticulously weaves its dystopian fabric with threads of Christian eschatology, presenting a society that teeters on the brink of what many characters perceive as the Great Tribulation—a time of trial and suffering prophesied in biblical texts. Through the eyes of Logan Langly, a young protagonist who defies the mandated Mark and embarks on a perilous journey to find his missing sister, readers are drawn into a narrative that challenges the very essence of faith, loyalty, and resistance. Logan's quest is not just a search for a loved one but a deeper exploration of what it means to stand against a seemingly omnipotent authority for the sake of one's beliefs.

As part of the broader Christian dystopian genre, *Storm* stands out for its ability to fuse elements of speculative fiction with theological inquiry, making it a significant contribution to discussions on morality, societal collapse, and the potential for redemption in a world that mirrors our deepest fears and highest hopes. Through *Storm*, Angler has crafted a narrative that resonates with a sense of urgency and introspection, urging readers to consider the implications of their beliefs and actions in a world inching ever closer to the edge of revelation. The readers are invited to speculate on the possible outcomes of the biblical revelations that are influenced by human actions.

The novel uses eschatological themes to prompt readers to consider the moral and ethical choices faced by individuals when confronted with societal collapse or authoritarian control. Eschatology, with its focus on judgment and the ultimate fate of humanity, provides a rich framework for exploring how characters navigate challenges to their faith, values, and loyalties in a dystopian setting. Glancing at human history, humans are unpredictable but God is considered Sovereign. "God promises a final future, a fulfilling future, a moment when all

reality will attain its full quiddity. At omega, creation's history will find fulfillment" (Peters and Ayala).

Utilizing eschatology, *Storm* might serve as a cautionary tale, critiquing current societal trends and warning against potential dystopian futures. Through the depiction of a world facing apocalyptic challenges, the novel could be interpreted as a reflection on the consequences of unchecked technological advancement, governmental overreach, and the erosion of individual freedoms, urging readers to contemplate the path society is taking.

Scholars like Frank Kermode and M.H. Abrams have examined how apocalyptic literature reflects cultural and existential anxieties, offering insights into how eschatological themes in fiction can serve as metaphors for societal collapse, existential dread, and the longing for renewal. Research in this area focuses on how eschatological theories shape dystopian and utopian narratives, reflecting societal fears and hopes for the future. The study of eschatology in this context reveals how fiction can critique current realities and propose visions of a new world order.

The intersection of theological scholarship with literary criticism, particularly through interdisciplinary studies, offers a fertile ground for exploring how eschatological theories enrich the analysis of fiction. This approach not only deepens our understanding of literary texts but also reveals how these narratives engage with broader philosophical, psychological, and cultural questions. Philosophical eschatology, dealing with the end of the world as a theoretical concept, allows for a critical examination of how fictional works confront or embody philosophical ideas about the end times, ethics, and the human condition. Psychological interpretations of eschatological themes in fiction focus on the individual and collective psyche's response to notions of apocalypse, judgment, and salvation. This perspective explores how characters' experiences of fear, hope, despair, and redemption

reflect psychological processes related to coping with the end of the world or significant transformative events. By employing interdisciplinary approaches, scholars and readers can appreciate the multifaceted ways in which fiction explores eschatological questions. The unbelief in the characters is also given due acknowledgement as time flies fast. Theological scholars have examined the various truths with evidence and have found the disturbing truth that the prophecies of the Bible are being fulfilled so advanced with technology. This is evident in the probing of Evan Angler's *Storm*.

The protagonist in his quest to find his sister's whereabouts finds the dark truth about the technopolitical city that they live in. Realising the aftermath of rejecting the Mark, Logan Steps up his game and intends to find Peck. The Markless later find from the Beacon City that the Markless are trained as the 'Revised Army' or the IMPs which Logan's sister Lily is also a part of. Lily recognises her brother but goes against every human instinct to protect the blood and betrays them. After finding out the truth about Project Trumpet, the Dust pack is on another mission as they have to save their friend Erin who is marked.

Due to the consequence of being Markless, the pack is unable to access any facilities and they follow methods to escape the surveillance of the Government. The Government finds it difficult to capture them since they are not recorded in the system. Except for Logan's friend, Erin, who has the Mark and is suffering from symptoms that were included to start an epidemic in the Marked community.

Everyone knew she needed medicine—anything to lower her temperature, even if only for a day or two. Anything to buy her some time. So the team decided to take the risk. "They'll know she was here the second we buy this thing," Peck warned as Hailey stepped toward the corner store counter with a handful of nanomeds. "They'll trace her scan instantly. You know they've been watching for it." (Angler 15)

Their friendship has made the kids between the ages of thirteen and eighteen, fight like never before. The description of the mark is similar to the concept of the biblical end times where the beast rules over the people, corrupting everything God intended. “Also it causes all, both small and great, both rich and poor, both free and slave, to be marked on the right hand or the forehead, so that no one can buy or sell unless he has the mark, that is, the name of the beast or the number of its name” (Revelations 13: 16, 17). The same condition is traced by the author for each of the characters.

The truth was that they’d made their choice already when each of them—Peck, Hailey, Logan—refused the Mark on each of their thirteenth birthdays, refused citizenship, refused to Pledge allegiance to General Lamson and Chancellor Cylis. They knew then what the consequences would be. They knew then that they’d never have rights. That they’d never in their lives be able to buy or sell anything, hold a job, vote, own a house, sign a contract, see a doctor, finish their education, start a family.

(16)

The Dust pack meets at moral crossroads often with the characters’ need to stick to the truth but also be rebellious. They make sure to escape the surveillance by trusting the judgement that would befall them. Their supreme authority is not of the world and hence their actions cause the readers to have dilemmas just as some characters, especially the Markless and the Marked Erin have trouble trusting people.

So close, Peck thought. But the boy frowned and pulled Peck back into the present. “You are here to see Dr. Rhyne, though, aren’t you?” “How?” Erin asked, raising an eyebrow and trying to hide her terror. “How could you have guessed that? What exactly is it you know about us?” (31)

In all this, Peck is confident of the future and always has a light of hope in his heart. His faith and destiny revolved around the situations that clarify the nature of the Dust pack and how though they are the underbelly group of the country, they still move forward in faith.

“Five and a half years ago—six, almost—your sister disappeared. And I can’t explain it, but I knew then, at that moment, that I needed to follow a different path. So I dropped out. I went Markless. I found Jesus. Became a Christian. And I spent months—years—by myself, just reading. Just listening. Just learning what I could. “And it’s because of that,” Peck said, “that the Dust exists today. It’s because of that research that we knew Lily was alive. It’s because of that introspection that we’re here right now. (152)

According to eschatology, the tribulation period is for those who have not received the mark in the first three and a half years but the next three and a half years would be for all people of the world. The beast would rule inadvertently. The beginning of a plague-like setting using Project Trumpet, the novel’s government has made the country dependent on it and constantly being watched.

One-world government, an enforced Mark of loyalty . . . warfare, famine, scorching heat . . . a west coast already destroyed by massive earthquakes, nearly a hundred and fifty thousand Markless rising and fighting back, an IMP army attacking, a charismatic chancellor leading it all from across the sea, a beastly General Lamson supporting him from here . . . it hardly takes much to connect the dots here, friends. These are the signs we’ve been waiting for —the unmistakable fingerprints of the Tribulation. (133)

The novel offers an insight into how the Markless have made the radio their mode of communication due to it being easily manufactured at home. The Markless use their voices to spread the beacon of hope by praying and encouraging others. Even some of the Marked have been so enlightened by the humility and servitude of the Markless that they wilfully have their Marks removed, despite knowing the consequences. They have a rejuvenated hope and that hope rests in the Lord. This is explained by Noel B. Woodbridge who reviewed Moltmann's Theology of Hope as follows:

The promise of God is the propelling force of history, awakening hope, which keeps men unreconciled to present experience, sets them in contradiction to current natural and social powers, makes the church 'a constant disturbance in human society', and 'the source of continual new impulses toward the realization of righteousness, freedom, and humanity here in the light of the promised future that is to come.'

(Woodbridge)

The indispensable idea of the novel's plot is the irreversibility. There can be reactions undone but this sets off a chain reaction that can be for the better or worse. "Regardless of a particular mode of representation, social contextualisation, or the eschatological framework, the discourse of apocalypse always narrates a fundamental and irreversible change imposed on the current cultural condition." (Mazurek). This is confirmed when Logan tries to bring the cure to people by disrupting government initiatives, only to realise that it is a trap. His saviour mentality had advanced the apocalyptic state of tribulation. To save the people from the drought initiated by General Lamson, Logan released the rain but at what cost?

Yes. It is true. You did release Project Trumpet. Its activation protein is delivered in water. The Trumpet was the rain. Don't you see? Those canisters you sent soaring all across this country, in direct defiance of my wishes and request? They were the

poison that felled us all. They were the point of this whole deadly thing! And you, my friend, were the carrier. (208)

Due to the accusations by Lily and the cleverly planted evidence for bringing the rain that activated the protein in the Mark vaccinations, Logan is put to death. With Peck gone, the pack had gone to different areas still markless and engaged to fight the government. Logan Langly's death is a shock to the readers who think that the world would be saved through him but the author wants to insist that death is temporary for those who have faith.

Erin is saved by the advanced treatments at Sierra and the death of Logan is not natural. Lily had placed him in a basement with the helmet for persecution, he feels nothing. It is then understood that Logan's mind is completely transferred to a virtual reality, Ultranet.

"The Ultranet," she clarified. "Not reality, but . . . well . . . virtual reality." The girl smiled, though Logan couldn't see that either. "I don't understand," he said. "Do you mean you can talk to the Ultranet directly?" "Of course," the voice said. For It was not its own thing. It was the virtual reality itself. The Ultranet was aware. Could communicate. Though apparently not with him. (225)

These are the themes explored in the novel, giving the base to the addition of elements of science and fiction to the narratology. The setting is characterized by advanced technological innovations, including sophisticated surveillance systems and devices that play a significant role in the societal structure. A pivotal technological element in the series is the Mark, a biotechnological implant that citizens receive at age thirteen. Themes of environmental control and manipulation, including the potential for controlling weather patterns as a form of power or warfare are explored. The technological advancements in the novel serve a dual purpose of progress and control. The government's use of technology to

maintain order and suppress dissent highlights the dark side of technological advancements and their potential to infringe on personal freedoms and privacy. The storyline involving a cure for an epidemic affecting the Marked individuals introduces elements of medical technology and bioethics, exploring the race against time to save lives and the moral dilemmas that arise in the process.

These elements reflect current societal trends and pose questions about the future direction of human civilization in the face of technological progress. To conclude, *Storm* stands as a testament to the power of eschatological themes to enrich dystopian fiction, offering readers not only an escape into a speculative future but also a mirror reflecting their deepest fears and highest hopes. Through its exploration of themes that resonate with both ancient eschatological literature and contemporary societal concerns, the novel encourages a reflective engagement with the concept of the end times, urging readers to consider what it means to live ethically and hopefully in a world that often seems on the cusp of unravelling. In doing so, *Storm* affirms the relevance of eschatological narratives in helping us navigate the complexities of the modern world, providing a compelling blend of entertainment, philosophical inquiry, and moral reflection.

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## The Glimpse of Speculative Realities in Thomas More's *Utopia*.

**Bhuvaneshwari**

### Abstract

Thomas More's *Utopia* is a literary masterpiece that presents a unique and thought-provoking vision of an ideal society. This article delves into the glimpses of speculative realities that are depicted in *Utopia*. By analyzing the text and exploring themes such as governance, economics and social norms, it aims to uncover the underlying message that More conveys through his utopian society. Through the use of textual evidences, this article will discuss how More challenges the existing norms of his time and presents a radical alternative for a better society.

**Keywords:** Utopia, Speculative Realities, Governance, Economics, Social Norms.

### Introduction

The 16th century saw a rise in the genre of utopian literature, with several authors attempting to present an idealized vision of a perfect society. However, it was Thomas More's *Utopia* that remains one of the most influential and debated works in this genre. Published in 1516, *Utopia* is a fictional account of a perfect society, where all social and economic structures operate in harmony. It is a society without money, poverty or private property where every citizen lives a life of comfort and contentment. However, beneath the seemingly idyllic facade lies a complex and thought-provoking commentary on the existing societal structures and the possibility of a better world. It is one of the most influential works of literature in history and has been translated into several languages. The term "utopia" itself means an ideal society, a place where everything is perfect and everyone is happy. The novel depicts a fictional island called Utopia, where the inhabitants live in a society free of poverty, war and crime. More's *Utopia* is considered a response to the social, political and religious issues of his time, making it a reflection of the speculative realities of the 16th century. This article will explore the

glimpses of speculative realities in *Utopia* and the underlying message that More conveys through his utopian society.

The purpose of this research is to analyze the depiction of speculative realities in Thomas More's *Utopia* and understand the impact it had on the readers of his time and its relevance in today's world. It aims to delve deeper into the novel and explore the underlying themes and ideologies that have shaped the society portrayed in *Utopia*.

Thomas More's *Utopia* has been heavily studied and analyzed by scholars, philosophers and literary critics from various disciplines. The concept of utopian societies and the critique of existing societies have been topics of interest for centuries. In his book "*Utopia and Its Discontents*," Zachariah Ingle argues that More's *Utopia* is an examination of the shortcomings of the society of his time, which was plagued by poverty, corruption and injustice. Ingle also highlights the influence of Greek philosopher Plato's work "*The Republic*" on the novel. In "*Utopias and Dystopias in the Fiction of H. G. Wells and William Morris*," Gregory Claeys compares More's *Utopia* with the works of H. G. Wells and William Morris, both of whom were influenced by More's *Utopia*. Claeys discusses how More's ideas about communal ownership and the abolition of private property were adopted and expanded upon by Wells and Morris in their own utopian and dystopian works.

### **Social Governance in *Utopia***

In *Utopia*, More presents a utopian society without any form of monarchy or rulership. Instead, the society is governed by elected officials who are chosen based on merit and experience, rather than birth or wealth. In Book One, More describes the election process, stating that "every election is secret, by secret ballot" (p 55). This reflects More's belief in democracy and meritocracy, wherein the best individuals are chosen to lead the society rather than being chosen based on their social status. Furthermore, Utopian society is based on the

principles of communal ownership and common good. Private property is non-existent, and all citizens are equal in terms of wealth and possessions. This is evident when Hythloday, the narrator, says, "we mean to equalize the conditions in life" (p 50). Through this, More challenges the existing social hierarchies and emphasizes the importance of equality in creating a perfect society.

### **Economics and Work in Utopia**

In *Utopia*, More presents an economic system that is radically different from the capitalist society of his time. In *Utopia*, there is no concept of money or currency. Instead, the society operates on a barter system where goods and services are exchanged without the use of money. This eliminates the issues of wealth inequality and economic exploitation, which were prevalent in 16th century Europe. Utopia follows a system of division of labour, where every citizen is trained in a specific trade or skill and is expected to contribute to the society through their work. This system eliminates the need for menial labour and ensures that every citizen is able to lead a comfortable and fulfilling life. Moreover, the concept of foul and wretched occupations is abolished in Utopia, as Hythloday states, "there is no occupation so lowly but that it contributes something to the common good" (p 54). Through this, More presents a vision of a society where work is seen as a means of contributing to the common good rather than a source of income or social status.

### **Challenging Gender Roles and Norms in Utopia**

In 16th century Europe, women were seen as inferior to men and there were rigid gender roles and expectations placed on them. However, in *Utopia*, gender roles and norms are abolished and men and women are considered equal. There is no distinction between traditionally masculine and feminine jobs and both genders are expected to contribute to society through their work. Moreover, women in Utopia have access to education and are not confined to domestic duties. This is evident when Hythloday describes "how women are drawn to the

same arts and pursuits as men and attend lectures and debate on the subtleties of law" (p 58). Through this, More challenges the prevailing societal norms and presents a vision of equality between genders.

### **Exploring the Limits of Human Nature in Utopia**

In *Utopia*, More presents a society where crime and violence are virtually non-existent. This is achieved through a strict legal system and a strong sense of community and collective responsibility. However, this also raises the question of the limits of human nature.

Can humans truly live without conflict and without the desire for personal gain?

More addresses this concern through the character of Hythloday, who admits that there are some limitations to human nature, stating, "some young and strong men...might desire more than their share, and take it by force" (p 77). By acknowledging these limitations, More challenges the idea of a perfect society and emphasizes the importance of constantly striving towards improving societal structures.

### **The Role of Religion in Utopia**

In *Utopia*, More presents a society that is free from religious persecution and where different religions coexist peacefully. This was a radical idea at a time when religious conflicts were prevalent in Europe. The Utopians are tolerant towards all faiths and believe that religion is a personal matter and not a reason for conflict. Moreover, the Utopians have their own belief system, which is void of any organized religion. Instead, they follow a moral code based on reason and common sense. This reflects More's humanist beliefs, which were influenced by his Catholic faith. By presenting a society without religious dogma, More challenges the power and influence of the Catholic Church in the 16th century.

### **Utopia as a Critique of Contemporary Society**

Although *Utopia* is set in an ideal society, More uses it as a tool to critique the existing societal structures of his time. Through the character of Hythloday, More makes scathing remarks about the political and religious institutions of 16th century Europe. For instance, in Book One, Hythloday criticizes the greed and corruption of the clergy, stating, “they never grow tired of scheming new ways to extort money from the people” (p 66). Through these critiques, More highlights the flaws in his society and presents a radical alternative for a better world.

## Conclusion

In conclusion, Thomas More’s *Utopia* presents a glimpse of speculative realities that challenge the existing norms and structures of 16th century Europe. Through the depiction of an ideal society, More critiques his contemporary society and offers a radical alternative for a better world. Through themes such as governance, economics, social norms and religion More presents a thought-provoking commentary on the limitations of human nature and the possibility of a utopian society. Although written over 500 years ago, *Utopia* remains relevant in today’s society as it forces us to question the existing norms and strive towards a better future. The novel continues to be relevant today, raising questions about the flaws in our own societies and presenting an alternative for a more just and equal society. The impact of *Utopia* can be seen in the works of various authors and philosophers who have been influenced by More’s ideas and continue to explore the concept of an ideal society.

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## Nathaniel Hawthorne's "The Birthmark": A Study of Scientific Setback

**Revathi**

### **Abstract**

Science genre encompasses a large variety of themes like aliens, artificial intelligence, time travels, robots and technology. The short story "The Birthmark" divulges about the brilliant and misguided scientist, Aylmer's constant efforts in eradicating the birthmark of his wife, Georgiana. Though Aylmer seems to portray himself as an eminent proficient in natural philosophy, he fails as a husband by implicating his scientific brilliance to his innocent and lovely wife, Georgiana. This paper is an attempt to demonstrate how science has become wrong and how it destroys the life of Georgiana.

**Key words:** science, technology, pursuit, failure, imperfection

### **Introduction**

Science is the system of systematic knowledge based on facts and human experiences. It derives from the Latin word 'scientia' meaning 'the knowledge'. Science genre encompasses a large variety of themes like aliens, artificial intelligence, time travels, robots and technology. Nathaniel Hawthorne, one of the celebrated novelists and short story writers of America weaves the themes of mortality, religion and history in all his works. "The Birthmark" was published in 1843 in a collection entitled *Mosses from an Old Manse*. The short story talks about the brilliant and misguided scientist, Aylmer's constant efforts in eradicating the birthmark of his wife, Georgiana. Though Aylmer seems to portray himself as an eminent proficient in natural philosophy, he fails as a husband by implicating his scientific forte to his innocent and lively wife, Georgiana. Aylmer and Georgiana's happy married life soon marred by the turns to be fatal due to Aylmer's obsession with the birthmark.

## A Scientific Setback

Being a perfectionist, Aylmer tries to remove the birthmark on his wife's cheek. This shows his pursuit of perfection over nature. His perfection leads to the tragic death of his wife, Georgiana which leaves the readers to question the scientific knowledge and experimentation. The key point is that one who practices science should know how to maintain a balance between professional and personal life. His professional hunt to eradicate the birthmark totally devastated the peace of his personal life.

Technology plays a pivotal role in this short story. Aylmer's laboratory and experiments fall under the category of technology. This story serves as a warning to the readers against the overuse and over-reliance on technology, further the ill effects of manipulating nature.

The story is set in the house of Aylmer. A brilliant and misguided scientist, Aylmer drops his profession for a while in order to marry Georgiana. Though the marriage seems quite well in the initial days, his pursuit of perfection over simple things spoils the peace of the family. His obsession over the birthmark is very deep. He says that "Dearest Georgiana, you came so nearly perfect from the hand of Nature that this slightest possible defect, which we hesitate whether to term a defect or a beauty, shocks me, as being the visible mark of earthly imperfection" (Hawthorne 1). Unlike Aylmer, all the others start to admire the birthmark of Georgiana. Her lovers feel that "That some fairy at her birth hour had laid her tiny hand upon the infant's cheek, and left this impress there in token of the magic endowments that were to give her such sway over all hearts" (Hawthorne 2). Even Aminadeb, servant of Aylmer, is more compassionate towards Georgiana. He says "If she were my wife, I'd never part with that birthmark" (Hawthorne 5).

Aylmer starts to think about it and its removal even in his dream. At a certain point of time Georgiana's love for Aylmer has become a panic-stricken moment and she decides to remove the birthmark for his sake. Even though he decides to show his concern and love towards his wife, the sight of the birthmark blemished all the love and affection towards her.

When Georgiana comes to know about the true nature of her husband i.e. the obsession to remove the birthmark, she is shocked at first. Aylmer brings the potion of the concoction; Georgiana, after drinking, falls asleep. Aylmer's happiness knew no bounds once he observes the fading of birthmark. "My peerless bride, it is successful! You are perfect!" (Hawthorne 11). The birthmark- symbol of nature and identity seems somewhat strange to Aylmer. Georgiana's sweet love story turns into a shocking nightmare which she never expected in her life. Aylmer fails as a husband in his life on the other hand he sees her as a project.

With the advent of science and technology, humans have the confidence that they can achieve anything in life. During the 18th and 19th centuries, people were submerged in supernatural beliefs. They believed that the birthmarks came from something terrible that happened to a fetus during pregnancy. "Both the lay public and the medical community of the late seventeenth and early 18th century routinely deemed children whose form was somehow marked, disfigured or deformed as monsters" (Wilson 4).

## Conclusion

To Aylmer, the birthmark appears to be a symbol of imperfection. This short story serves as a cautionary to the readers that certain issues like beauty, mortality and human condition need to be accepted as it is, rather than experimenting with scientific excellence. Nature can never be altered by any means. Aylmer hails to be the divine creator and projects his wife at last to witness the tragic consequences of his lovely wife. It also underscores those

embracing oddities and imperfections in life is a much-needed concept that everyone should practice.

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# Exploring the Intersection of Science and Literature: Unveiling Scientific Themes in Classic Works

**Prakash**

## Abstract

The world of science and literature may seem like two entirely different worlds, but in reality, they are closely intertwined. Science has always influenced literature, and literature, in turn, has inspired scientific ideas and discoveries. Many classic works of literature incorporate scientific themes and concepts that are still relevant today. Whether it's Mary Shelley's exploration of the dangers of playing God in *Frankenstein* or H.G. Wells' time-traveling machine in *The Time Machine*, the intersection of science and literature has produced some of the most thought-provoking and timeless works of art. In this blog post, we will explore the scientific themes and concepts in some classic works of literature, and how they have shaped our understanding of the world around us. Join us on this journey of discovery and exploration of the fascinating relationship between science and literature.

**Keywords:** Literature, Discoveries, Scientific, Exploration, Fascinating

## Introduction

The intersection of science and literature is a fascinating realm where two seemingly distinct disciplines converge to create thought-provoking and multidimensional narratives. Throughout history, writers and thinkers have drawn inspiration from scientific concepts and discoveries to enrich their literary works. From Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein* exploring themes of creation and responsibility to Aldous Huxley's *Brave New World* delving into the implications of technological advancement, the fusion of science and literature offers a rich tapestry of ideas and reflections on the human condition.

In this exploration, we will delve into the ways in which classic works of literature have incorporated scientific themes, shedding light on the interconnectedness of these seemingly disparate fields. By uncovering the intricate relationships between science and literature, we aim to appreciate the depth and complexity of these works while gaining insights into the societal and ethical questions they raise. Join us on this journey as we unravel the intricacies of the intersection of science and literature, and discover the profound impact it has had on shaping our understanding of the world and our place within it.

## **Methodology**

1. The Historical and Cultural context of the literary works and the author's life background and influence are to be analysed.
2. Interdisciplinary Analysis helps us to get the connection between the essential scientific background like biology, psychology, physics or sociology and the related literary themes and characters are to be magical through the analysis.
3. Further the comparative study of scientific ideas and the literary themes are to be aptly joined and explored.
4. Critical interpretation to that scientific concepts, how do they reflect or challenge the cultural aspects towards science has to be examined.
5. Finally the intertwining of the meritorious and purposeful concepts of science is to be brought into literary themes to educate the society the need of the synthetics of these two different identities in to one.

## **Research Gap**

While these steps are planned well to be executed through literary works, the popping up of certain gaps are also to be analysed and solved. Thus accordingly the possible gaps are:

1. A complete survey through literature review is required and this through study can help seeking the ignored perspectives or interpretations of the scientific themes in the literary works.
2. Consulting with research expertise, mentor, peers, regarding this loop-hole is mandatory.
3. The joint nature to bridge the gap through multi-disciplinary act is also possible and helpful in bringing the possible solution, to this approach.
4. Finally rechecking the primary sources connected to this research will also be helpful in seeking out bond between scientific factors and literary themes of that time.

### **The Role of Science in Classic Literature**

Science has long played a significant role in classic literature, often serving as a powerful thematic element that adds depth and complexity to the narrative. From the scientific revolution of the Enlightenment era to the technological advancements of the Industrial Revolution, authors have drawn inspiration from the world of science to explore a wide range of ideas and concepts in their works.

In classic literature, science is often used to symbolize progress, innovation, and the pursuit of knowledge. It can be a source of wonder and awe, as characters grapple with the mysteries of the natural world and the universe. Scientific themes are also used to explore the ethical implications of technological advancements, raising questions about the consequences of tampering with the natural order.

Authors frequently incorporate scientific ideas and principles into their works to reflect on the human condition, society, and the nature of reality. Through the lens of science, classic literature delves into themes such as identity, morality, power, and the limits of human

understanding. Science serves as a means of exploring the complexities of the world and the human experience, offering readers a deeper insight into the intricacies of existence.

By examining the role of science in classic literature, we gain a greater appreciation for the ways in which authors have used scientific themes to enrich their storytelling and provoke thought-provoking discussions about the nature of life, humanity, and the universe.

### **Analyzing scientific themes in Shakespeare's works**

Shakespeare, known for his timeless plays and sonnets, was not only a literary genius but also a keen observer of human nature and the world around him. Delving into his works reveals a rich tapestry of scientific themes that are woven into the fabric of his storytelling.

In Shakespeare's works, we can find references to astronomy, medicine, natural history, and even alchemy. In *Julius Caesar*, Shakespeare alludes to celestial events and omens, reflecting the Elizabethan fascination with astrology and the influence of the stars on human affairs. In *Macbeth*, the themes of witchcraft and the supernatural intersect with notions of psychology and the human mind.

Shakespeare's knowledge of botany and herbalism shines through in his descriptions of plants and flowers, showcasing his understanding of the natural world. In *Romeo and Juliet*, for instance, the characters make references to various plants and their symbolic meanings, adding depth to the narrative.

By analyzing the scientific themes in Shakespeare's works, we not only gain a deeper appreciation of his genius but also uncover the intricate connections between literature and science. Shakespeare's timeless works continue to inspire and intrigue readers, inviting us to explore the intersection of art and science in new and fascinating ways.

## Unveiling the influence of scientific discoveries in Victorian literature

During the Victorian era, a period marked by significant advancements in science and technology, the influence of scientific discoveries on literature became increasingly evident. Writers of this time were not only inspired by the rapid progress in fields such as biology, geology, and astronomy, but they also grappled with the societal implications of these discoveries.

In Victorian literature, we see themes of evolution, industrialization, and the changing natural world woven into the fabric of storytelling. In Charles Dickens' novel *Hard Times* delves into the dehumanizing effects of industrialization on society, while Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein* explores the ethical implications of scientific experimentation and the consequences of playing god.

The works of authors like H.G. Wells and Jules Verne introduced readers to speculative fiction that often predicted future scientific advancements. From time travel to space exploration, these writers sparked the imagination of readers while reflecting the scientific curiosities of their time.

By unveiling the influence of scientific discoveries in Victorian literature, we gain a deeper understanding of how writers grappled with the changing world around them and how they used literature as a means to explore the potential and pitfalls of scientific progress.

## Exploring the impact of Darwin's theory of evolution in literature

The impact of Darwin's theory of evolution on literature is profound and far-reaching. Charles Darwin's groundbreaking work, *On the Origin of Species*, published in 1859, revolutionized scientific thought and had a significant influence on the cultural landscape of

the time. This theory challenged traditional beliefs about the origins of life and the natural world, sparking debates and discussions that extended beyond the scientific community.

In literature, Darwin's theory of evolution often served as a catalyst for exploring themes of adaptation, survival, and change. Authors of the time, such as Thomas Hardy and H.G. Wells, incorporated evolutionary ideas into their work, reflecting the shifting paradigms of the Victorian era. Characters and narratives began to reflect the struggle for existence and the concept of natural selection, offering deeper insights into human behavior and society.

Darwin's emphasis on the interconnectedness of all living beings and the concept of a common ancestor provided fertile ground for exploring themes of unity and diversity in literature. Works like *The Island of Doctor Moreau* by H.G. Wells and *The Time Machine* delve into the implications of evolutionary theory, presenting cautionary tales about unchecked scientific progress and the consequences of tampering with nature.

The impact of Darwin's theory of evolution in literature is undeniable, shaping narratives, characters, and themes in ways that continue to resonate with readers today. By exploring these intersections between science and literature, we gain a deeper understanding of the complexities of human nature and the world around us.

### **How science fiction paved the way for scientific themes in literature**

Science fiction has long been a genre that pushes the boundaries of imagination and explores the possibilities of scientific advancement. From Jules Verne's *Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea* to Isaac Asimov's *Foundation* series, science fiction has paved the way for the exploration of scientific themes in literature. These works often showcase futuristic technologies, space exploration, time travel, and alternative realities, sparking curiosity and inspiring scientific developments in the real world.

Authors like H.G. Wells and Arthur C. Clarke have envisioned concepts such as artificial intelligence, genetic engineering, and space travel long before they became realities. Through their imaginative storytelling, they have not only entertained readers but also encouraged them to contemplate the ethical and societal implications of scientific progress.

By weaving scientific principles and speculative technologies into their narratives, science fiction writers have sparked a fascination with the unknown and the possibilities of what the future may hold. This genre continues to influence contemporary literature, prompting writers to explore complex scientific themes and engage readers in thought-provoking discussions about the intersection of science and society.

### **The portrayal of scientific advancements in dystopian literature**

Dystopian literature often serves as a reflection of society's fears and concerns about the direction of scientific progress. These works present a bleak vision of the future where scientific advancements have led to societal decay, loss of individual freedom, and the domination of oppressive technologies.

Authors like George Orwell in *1984* and Aldous Huxley in *Brave New World* depict worlds where advanced technologies are used to control and manipulate the population, raising important ethical questions about the impact of unchecked scientific progress on humanity.

In these dystopian worlds, scientific advancements are often portrayed as tools of surveillance, propaganda, and social control, highlighting the potential dangers of allowing science to advance without considering its ethical implications.

Exploring the portrayal of scientific advancements in dystopian literature not only offers a fascinating glimpse into the intersection of science and society but also prompts readers to critically examine the ethical responsibilities that come with scientific progress.

### **Discussing the ethical dilemmas presented in scientific-themed literature**

Exploring the ethical dilemmas presented in scientific-themed literature opens up a fascinating dialogue that delves into the complexities of human nature and the consequences of scientific advancement. Classic works often serve as a mirror to reflect the moral quandaries that arise when scientific progress intersects with societal norms and values.

In literature such as Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*, ethical dilemmas surrounding the creation and treatment of artificial life are prominently featured. The novel forces readers to confront questions about the limits of scientific ambition, the responsibilities of creators towards their creations, and the potential dangers of unchecked scientific experimentation.

Similarly, Aldous Huxley's *Brave New World* presents a dystopian society where scientific advancements have led to the dehumanization of individuals and the suppression of individuality. The novel challenges readers to consider the ethical implications of sacrificing personal freedom and authenticity in the pursuit of societal stability and happiness.

By discussing these ethical dilemmas in scientific-themed literature, readers are prompted to reflect on the ethical implications of scientific progress in the real world. These literary works serve as cautionary tales, reminding us to critically evaluate the ethical dimensions of scientific innovation and to consider the potential impact of our actions on both individuals and society as a whole.

### **Contemporary authors incorporating scientific elements in their works**

In the realm of contemporary literature, there has been a noticeable trend of authors incorporating scientific elements into their works. This fusion of science and literature creates a captivating narrative that not only entertains but also educates readers on complex scientific concepts in an easily digestible manner.

Authors like Neal Stephenson, with his novel *Seveneves* delving into the realm of astrophysics and space exploration, or Andy Weir, who masterfully combines science and fiction in *The Martian* by exploring the challenges of survival on Mars, are prime examples of contemporary writers embracing scientific themes in their storytelling.

By weaving scientific theories, principles, and advancements into their narratives, these authors not only engage readers with thrilling plots but also spark curiosity and interest in various scientific fields. This blending of science and literature opens up new avenues for exploration and discovery, bridging the gap between these seemingly disparate disciplines and offering readers a unique and enriching reading experience.

## Conclusion

In conclusion, the intricate relationship between science and literature is a testament to the interconnectedness of human knowledge and creativity. Throughout history, both disciplines have influenced and inspired each other, leading to the creation of timeless works that explore the wonders of the natural world and the complexities of the human experience.

From Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein* to H.G. Wells' *The Time Machine*, classic works of literature have delved into scientific themes and ethical dilemmas, sparking discussions about the impact of technological advancements and the boundaries of human knowledge. These literary masterpieces not only entertain and provoke thought but also serve as mirrors reflecting society's fears, hopes, and aspirations regarding scientific progress.

As we continue to navigate the ever-evolving landscape of science and literature, it becomes clear that their relationship is symbiotic and essential. Science provides the framework for understanding the world around us, while literature offers a lens through which we can explore the ethical, moral, and existential implications of scientific discoveries.

In essence, the enduring relationship between science and literature reminds us of the power of storytelling to illuminate the unknown, bridge the gap between disciplines, and fuel our collective imagination. By embracing the intersection of science and literature, we open ourselves to new perspectives, deeper insights, and a richer appreciation for the beauty and complexity of the universe.

As we conclude our exploration of the intersection of science and literature, it becomes evident that the marriage of these two disciplines yields a rich tapestry of knowledge and creativity. By unveiling the scientific themes embedded in classic works of literature, we have uncovered a deeper appreciation for the intricate connections between art and science. These timeless pieces serve as a testament to the enduring curiosity and innovation that drive both fields forward. Let us continue to delve into the realms of science and literature, uncovering new insights and inspirations along the way.

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## **Exploring the Nexus of Science, Technology and Literature: Unveiling Insights, Shaping Perspectives**

**Durga Dharani**

### **Abstract**

Interdisciplinary dialogues involving science, technology, and literature are essential for understanding intricate societal challenges and forming viewpoints in the modern period. This research article explores the areas where various domains converge with the aim of revealing insights that impact perspectives in different disciplines. Deep insights are revealed through interdisciplinary exploration, exposing complex relationships and raising important concerns. Stories from literature such as "Frankenstein," "Brave New World" and "The Handmaid's Tale" serve as disturbing reminders of the moral consequences of technological progress. Through the integration of approaches from several fields, scholars question established beliefs and enhance our comprehension of the effects on society. Moreover, literature frequently provides a forum for evaluating moral dilemmas and scientific representations. The relationship between science, technology, and literature is still changing; new developments such as virtual reality are changing the way stories are told. In public discourse and governance, interdisciplinary conversations are essential for tackling urgent problems like biotechnology and climate change. Working together across disciplines encourages creative thinking and moves us closer to a more sustainable future. To sum up, interdisciplinary collaboration is crucial for managing the complexity of today's world and for generating groundbreaking study and initiatives.

### **Introduction**

In today's interconnected world, interdisciplinary dialogues about science, technology, and literature are becoming increasingly important for understanding complicated societal issues and affecting viewpoints. When diverse disciplines overlap, they

provide unique insights and perspectives that contribute to our understanding of the world.

The purpose of this research article is to investigate the intersection of science, technology, and literature and uncover insights that shape views in these fields (Smith et al. 2020).

## **Literature Review**

Interdisciplinary dialogues give fundamental insights that resonate throughout society as they delve into the fusion of science, technology, and literature. Academics investigate philosophical questions, historical settings, and science fiction stories to analyse the complex interactions between various domains. Classic books like “Frankenstein” and “Brave New World” are warning stories that provoke thought about the moral implications of technological advancement. Victor Frankenstein and John the Savage are two examples of characters that perfectly capture the complex relationship between human ambitions and unrestrained advancement in technology. In addition, a combination of approaches from several disciplines enhances our comprehension of the societal consequences and interpersonal encounters at the intersection of science, technology, and literature. Scholars expose a range of perspectives by challenging conventional wisdom through cooperative investigation and critical analysis.

## **Methodology**

The research article’s methodology consist a qualitative analysis of interdisciplinary discussion concerning the convergence of science, technology, and literature. A variety of sources, such as philosophical investigations, historical settings, and literary narratives, are consulted in order to examine the intricate relationships between various fields. Significant literary works like “Brave New World,” “Frankenstein” and “The Handmaid’s Tale” are examined to shed light on the ethical consequences of technology advancement and how it affects society. Furthermore, combining approaches from different fields improves

understanding of the effects on society and individual experiences. Scholars expose a variety of viewpoints on the subject matter and challenge conventional wisdom through cooperative study and critical analysis.

## **Results/Findings**

The nexus of science, technology, and literature has a rich past and is still developing in contemporary society. Literary works that explore the potential consequences of scientific discoveries for humankind and society are often inspired by advances in science. For example, Mary Shelley's "Frankenstein" The classic novel "Frankenstein" by Mary Shelley expertly combines themes of science, technology, and literature, especially in the study of the effects from unrestrained scientific ambition. The philosophical and scientific discussions Shelley participated in during her lifetime, such as those concerning the essence of life, the boundaries of human knowledge, and the ethical consequences of scientific experimentation, are also reflected in "Frankenstein" (Shelley 1818). Similarly, "The Island of Dr. Moreau" serves as an illustration about the risks of technological advancement and the possibilities for unethical use of science. When morality is removed, Moreau's inventions, the Beast Folk, are hideous representations of the human capacity for brutality and violence.

Literature frequently provides a forum for examining scientific representations and ideas.. A cautionary story about the risks of dictatorship, the abuse of science and technology, and the lasting power of literature in the face of discrimination, "The Handmaid's Tale" Atwood's examination of these subjects strikes a deep connection with current debates over reproductive rights, surveillance, and the moral consequences of technology innovations (Atwood 1985). Through dystopian narratives, authors like Atwood challenge readers to consider the ethical implications of scientific progress and technological development on

human identity and society. Similarly Aldous Huxley's "Brave New World" predicts the societal effects of biotechnology and genetic engineering (Huxley 1932).

Science, technology, and literary interdisciplinary discussions have a significant impact on culture and society. Interdisciplinary research can contribute to public debate and policy-making processes by tackling complicated subjects like biotechnology, artificial intelligence, and climate change. One area of study that examines the connection between literature and the environment is eco-criticism, which emphasises the importance of storytelling in bringing attention to ecological challenges (Glotfelty and Fromm 1996). Scholars and practitioners can collaborate through interdisciplinary dialogues to tackle urgent issues and create a more fair and sustainable future.

Technology advancements have completely changed narrative methods and literary works. The emergence of interactive storytelling platforms and digital media has revolutionised the production, consumption, and distribution of stories. For instance, the advent of virtual reality (VR) and augmented reality (AR) technologies has made it possible to have immersive storytelling experiences that conflate fact and fiction (Ryan 2014). These developments in technology present fresh chances to captivate viewers and delve into intricate storylines

## **Discussion**

Significant discoveries are revealed in interdisciplinary debates at the intersection of science, technology, and literature. Through analysing how literary works convey social perspectives on technological advancement (Shelley; Huxley), academics uncover ethical difficulties and existential issues. At the same time, stories about science and technology influence popular culture and serve as an inspiration for science fiction (Shelley; Huxley). By stimulating collaborative inquiry and crossing disciplinary barriers, this interdisciplinary

investigation enriches understanding (Shelley; Huxley). These kinds of interactions help to shape perspectives and provide comprehensive insights that are essential for navigating our complicated, interrelated world (Shelley; Huxley).

## Conclusion

Interdisciplinary dialogues including science, technology, and literature provide insightful perspectives that transform understanding and promote research across academic fields. By investigating the connections between various disciplines, researchers can find novel perspectives on challenging problems and inspire innovative solutions to today's problems. It is imperative that we keep advancing interdisciplinary cooperation and communication in order to tackle the complex problems that today's society faces.

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## Unveiling the Future: Exploring Innovation Narratives in Literature

Ishani

### Abstract

In the future, literature becomes a powerful tool for imagining and exploring the future.

Through the lens of new narratives, storytellers carefully challenge and inspire our imaginations, giving us a glimpse into a future that could be better through technological advancements, social change, and scientific discovery. In this blog post, we explore the world of literature to show how new narratives can engage readers, spark conversation, and illustrate the dynamic relationships between creativity, technology, and human experience.

Take part in a literary exploration of the future through stories from pioneering authors.

### Introduction

The future of the area of literature is somewhat puzzling and thrilling, why? Because it always allures the mind of the literary person to create something minds of the reader. In that case, exploring angle and perception will be interesting endeavor, which will inform provide a rich imaginative and innovative ideas to unveil its future amazingly. To start with the science fiction which is capable of predicting and foretelling the future scenario to the myth like dystopian stories, it's demanded the innovations to be unraveled to clear the depth of complexities of future, that are available in plenty, enabling the readers to check the insights and delve in to the world the writers lead in.

To reach the envisioned future by the writer, the reader should navigate the path of the writer's past and present his world of puzzle, peril and complexities and so on. The unchecked territory of Utopian perception of a synchrozing with digitalization, also offers us with the myriad approach to insert innovations into creativity and literature that will rather shape design our future. The microscopic vision of literature should capture and explore the

themes, motifs and ideas to reshape the digital world for the future generation, with its valid perception and novel ideas decorating and embedding in his writings.

The adventurous journey undertaken by the writers through innovative narratives will definitely unravel the mysterious and intricacies stroven on the path of the humans and assist them cautiously to plunge into the journey of hope, positivity and charm to explore the realm of productive brightful future.

### **Objectives**

1. Multidimensional possibilities in the innovation narratives will help to achieve plenty of different goals and purposes.
2. This sort of innovation in narratives explore the myriad possibilities to assist the readers understand the capability of innovation that can shape not only the individual but the entire society with its farfetched envisioned culture.
3. Ultimately it will lead the reader to the critical perception of Utopian scenario completely uprooted from the dystopian, eerie, bizarre ideas and thoughts about the digital progress and its impact on the future generations.
4. Moreover this sort of innovation and creativity will inspire and stimulate the readers to visualize the hopeful, interesting and challenging future.
5. It will also invite social remarks and cultural transformation in the future generation yet the youth in the future well perceive and imbibe the concept of this innovation narrative to prepare themselves sportively for happy livings amidst the technological progress and also its influence on human. Thus the innovation narratives will disseminate wholesome faith and dreams among the youth, in anticipation.

Above all it will also serve as powerful entertainment that will engage the readers with tantalizing stories and characters alluring the minds of the readers to the world of fantasy.

### **Methodology**

The importance of the adherence of methodology in innovation narratives ensure the cogency of structured writing, depth of contents thereby comprehensible, further it gradually grabs the interest of the readers towards innovation narratives.

1. This sort technique will arouse the curiosity and eagerness of the effectiveness of the innovation narratives for future generations.
2. It will produce the characters involved in that particular work with their zeal in imbibing innovations; also enable them to cope with rapidly changing technological innovations.
3. This sort of creative technique in literature will also enhance the beauty of art, modifies the plot construction suitable to the modern scenario, with the coincidence of its theme and plot.

Once the revolution of innovation launched in the literary works and simultaneously the change in tone and narrative style will also modified according to enrapture and enthral the audience and theme by to appreciate the progress of innovation.

### **Research Gap**

In the realm of innovation narratives in literature is connected with analysis and wide understanding of the investigation. Possible gaps in this area will be of their,

1. Limited global perspectives.
2. Readers welcoming and inviting the innovation narratives in the literary work.

3. How the intersectionality and diversity going to impact the readers globally. The one who holds the power in focusing on the technological progress and how does it hinder the progress of innovative technologies.
4. This is as a result of their inability in understanding the technological innovations. That should be checked and altered.
5. Agencies are to be framed to explore the people from marginalized who are resisting the technological change, or innovation should be educated.

Thus, the intersectionality lies in innovation narratives, can be analyzed and help them understand the urgency of various perspectives and experience in framing innovation narratives in future in the zone of literature.

## **Conclusion**

To sum up this exploration of innovation narratives in literature will ensure the act of unveiling future, in multifaceted fields like socio, economic, political and cultural; it will also educate the future generation the influence of digitalization in human approaches and their activities. It embraces encompassed the innovations in every walk of life, relieves the human mind from all sorts of chaotic situations. It rather literates the human mind to accept the innovation in narration. To insert this concept into literature the writer has to transform the mindset of the readers globally. They will be analyzing the human mind. It will promote positivism in the surroundings. This amicable situation will clear the problems based on caste, creed, colour, identity, liberation, and so on. Unites the people with the single concept “we are all one” under the sun. When the human brain is explore to the ‘oneness’ concept to achieve globally happy, contended living. Thus, this motto of innovation narratives in literature unveil the future by elimination of the corruptive and polluted thoughts and

emotions of humans universally and transforms them solely to welcome the changes sprouted from innovation narratives

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## Functionalist perspective in sociology corelated to Kazuo Ishiguro's

### ***Never Let Me Go***

**Priyanka**

#### **Abstract**

Sociological theories are statements of how and why particular facts about the social world are related. Sociologists develop theories to explain social phenomena. Life is related to the social set up of the society. Society moulds one's life and adjusts to its structure. Writers write about the contemporary issues corrupting the society, to create awareness and differences in the society. Science fiction is a genre of speculative fiction where the emergence of science and technology in life are traced with imagination. *Never Let Me Go* by Ishiguro is a dystopian novel, which shows the future of humans' insecurities in health condition. The clones are created and destroyed for the sake of humans. The functionalist perspective in sociology points out that, society is a system of interconnected parts that works in harmony to maintain a state of balance and social equilibrium for the whole. The paper aims to bring balance between technology and humanity in the society rather destroying nature.

#### **Key Words:** Technology, humanity, clones

Kazuo Ishiguro's *Never Let Me Go*, is a dystopian novel dealing with the creation of human clones and their life in the society. The term dystopia is defined as a society characterised by poverty, squalor or oppression. Ishiguro, Nobel prize winner is an English novelist, screen writer and short story writer. He is considered one of the most celebrated contemporary fiction author in the English-speaking world as he has won many awards for his novels. The novel *Never Let Me Go*, was named by Time as the best novel of 2005 and is included in its list of the 100 best English-language novels from 1923 to 2005. In 2017, the

Swedish Academy awarded Ishiguro the Nobel prize in literature, describing him in its citation as a writer “who, in novels of great emotional force, has uncovered the abyss beneath our illusory sense of connection with the world”.

The novel *Never Let Me Go*, is about human clones, created so that they can donate their organs to young adults. The life story of Kathy, a clone who is raised at a boarding school for future “donors”. It is related in flashback. Kathy works as a “carer”, a nurse and companion to clones who are in between donations and is to start her first donations. Kathy reminisces about her time at Hailsham. Her two most important friends were Ruth, charismatic but manipulative and dishonest “queen bee” and Tommy, a kind boy with a bad temper who is disliked by the other students. Kathy relates a number of anecdotes about how her relationships with Ruth and Tommy change over time.

Kathy talks about Hailsham where they were given importance on art, writing and other forms of “creativity” and the best ones were taken by Madame to display it in “Gallery”. But she also points out when Miss Lucy tells Tommy that, “if I didn’t want to be creative, if I really feel like, that was perfectly all right” (23) who has trouble in being creative. This shocks her and when Miss Lucy reveals the truth about their donation, they were not able to understand it whole. Kathy goes away when Ruth and Tommy share a relationship and becomes a ‘carer’. Kathy hears about Ruth’s donation and goes to be the carer to her. Ruth apologises for separating Kathy and Tommy and takes to a ‘carer centre’ near the boat where Tommy was taken care after his third donations.

Tommy was ready for his fourth donation and asks Kathy to leave him before the operation. She leaves him and is ready to start her donation after she hears the death of Tommy. When all the three meets after years they share a memorable and emotional moment by hearing the song *Never let me go* which Kathy had lost years ago. Kathy realises the bare

truth about life of donors who are to donate their life and predicts the truth that they also have souls like the humans. At the end she imagines and says “I half-closed my eyes and imagined this was the spot where everything I’d ever lost since my childhood had washed up, and I was now standing here in front of it, and if I waited long enough, a tiny figure would appear on the horizon across the field, and gradually get larger until I’d see it was tommy, he’d wave, maybe even call” (282) that all the things she has lost most importantly, Tommy, will return to her.

The functionalist perspective in sociology is based largely on the works of Herbert Spencer, Emile Durkheim, Talcott Parsons, and Robert Merton. Functionalism, society is a system of interconnected parts that work together in harmony to maintain a state of balance and social equilibrium for the whole. The functionalist perspective emphasises the interconnectedness of society by focusing on how each part influences and is influenced by other parts. Functionalists use the terms ‘functional’ and ‘dysfunctional’ to describe the effects of social elements on society. Elements of society are functional if they contribute to social stability and dysfunctional if they disrupt social stability. Some aspects of society can be both functional and dysfunctional.

The novel brings out the dysfunctional fact that, humans are dependent on others rather being independent. Humans depend on clones that they are convinced of their organ failure. The clones sacrifice themselves for the sake of humans though they are not willing to but only to fulfil the purpose of their creation. Humans fail to understand the feelings of others when it comes to their individuality. Everyone is forced to maintain their selfish attitude towards humanity. They also think that only humans have feelings and not the other beings. The life of Kathy is an example that she longs to live her life happily with Tommy but she could not as Tommy dies after his fourth donation. She finds the truth that they were only created to donate organs, fairly to live their own life according to their will.

Kathy voices out the denial of emotions, freedom and independence to live their own life. She talks about the boundaries drawn by the guardians in the Hailsham school and also the life span of the clones. The clones in novel were thought about their donations and are cared so much not because of love and care but only because of their donations to safeguard humans in need. This shows that the clones are not recognised as living beings rather a scapegoat to satisfy the failed organs of the humans. Thus, the novel portrays the dysfunctional fact that humans are ready to destroy nature for their own sake and rarely taking care of it. It also provides a clear view of life in future were people will fight with each other to be the fittest to survive in society according to Darwin's theory 'survival of the fittest.'

Humans think that they have the authority and power to abort clones as they were weak in the society. The functional perspective provides us to maintain a state of balance which helps the society to have harmony and responsibility, to care for other living beings. The novel gives the picture of clones having feelings but they let it go as they are not regarded as emotional beings. This shows the ignorant outlook of humans towards nature and clones. Thus, humans should become conscious of their life and health in the society rather despoiling the harmony of life with nature. The functional perspective in sociology gives a solution to society that all living beings have emotions and feelings which is important to balance life rather dispatching the harmony of nature, humans and technology. The analysis is, every living and non-living are interconnected with the society and desolating nature from humans will cause a great imbalance in the society.

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## Carl Sagan's *Contact*: A Cross-Sectional Exploration of Science, Technology, and Literature

Ishwarya N

### Abstract

Carl Sagan's *Contact* is an influential science fiction novel that investigates the connections between science, technology and literature. This book revolves around a radio astronomer called Ellie Arroway as she struggles with enigmatic space expeditions and in search of a life outside planet Earth. Through this venture, analyze how Sagan ably knits together the fields of science and fiction in *Contact*, revealing his ability to use scientific rigor and imaginative storytelling to make his readers think about the place of human beings among other things in nature. It also investigate ethical and philosophical issues that are embedded within the story's plots showing how Dagan deals with faith, skepticism, scientific integrity and what it would mean if we ever made contact with extra-terrestrial intelligence.

**Keywords:** contact, extra-terrestrial, intelligence, scientific rigor, skepticism.

### Introduction

Between them, science, technology and literature are joint together in a large tapestry of human creativity, innovation and exploration. At this crossroad, we come to terms with dynamic involvement of ideas where literary imagination is informed by scientific research; creative expression inspires technological advancements while literature reflects or molds social perspectives on human conduct. This connection also provides the much needed ground for discovering and shaping points of view that transcend academic disciplines resulting in a holistic understanding of complex human experiences.

Carl Sagan's *Contact* is one such sci-fi masterpiece that examines the interface between science, technology and literature. It was published in 1985 as a combination of science fiction

and storytelling concentrating on interstellar communication as well as philosophical or ethical consequences of science. The novel chronicles Ellie Arroway's journey through the enigmas of space exploration and questing for life beyond Earth. It is not only scientific speculation, but also a work of art addressing issues like the status quo concerning existence; limitations imposed by humanity's knowledge capacity; as well as intricacies involved in communication.

### **Imaginative Exploration of Extra-terrestrial Intelligence**

The book *Contact* by Carl Sagan is an exploration of imaginative space intelligence, which is the main idea that attracts readers and makes them inquisitive about life outside of the earth, beyond human beings. This area of speculation is well-handled by Sagan as he provides a mix of scientific possibility and imaginative narrative in a very creative manner to make it feel like he was involved in the search for contact with extra-terrestrial civilizations. Carl Sagan's *Contact*'s literature perspective on the imaginative exploration into extra-terrestrial intelligence contains scientific conjecture, philosophical inquiry as well as literary invention. Throughout the novel, therefore, there are many different scenes where humanity tries its best to reach out to other planets thereby offering readers interesting moments to ponder on what could happen if we ever came across extraterrestrial beings. Here's how alien wisdom is dealt with in this novel:

### **Scientific foundations**

Sagan is recognized for his work in astrophysics and astronomy, and his examination of extra-terrestrial intelligence is grounded on established scientific principles and theories. Sagan's character 'Radio Astronomer Ellie Arroway' shows the step-by-step process of a scientist investigating, which reflects the lives of real stars in this field. Through data analysis drawn from remote galaxies to building sophisticated radio telescopes, Sagan highlights how strictness in scientific methods is significant to detect signs of intelligent life beyond our solar system.

## Speculative scenarios

Based on scientific realism, *Contact* also explores speculative scenarios and possibilities related to the nature of alien intelligence. Contact also delves into speculative scenarios and hypotheses about the alien intellect through its foundation on scientific realism. Sagan wants readers to consider various possibilities of alien civilizations with their own peculiarities, motivations and forms of communication. When Ellie encounters Vega, “mysterious” extra-terrestrial intelligence, Sagan asks us to think about what other kinds of creatures might exist out there and what it would mean to be visited by them.

## Philosophical Reflection

Another aspect of *Contact* is the philosophical implications that follow such discoveries. Sagan explores questions on faith, doubt and the quest for significance in a universe crowded with galaxies through Ellie’s interactions with her skeptical colleagues, religious figures like Palmer Joss and government agencies. The novel addresses existential issues regarding humanity’s place in the cosmos and what contact with advanced civilizations means for our understanding of the universe and its nature.

## Literary Imagination

Sagan employs literary fiction techniques to evoke a sense of awe and wonder in the minds of his readers as they follow Ellie Arroway on her voyage of discovery. He went on expeditions to remote galaxies in order to depict cosmic phenomena, the universe as whole, advanced technologies, and projected possibilities that would immerse readers in an imaginary world. Sagan merges scientific precision with artistic innovation into intellectually engaging and emotionally moving narration that makes the public delve into perplexing enigmas through literature.

## Bridging Science and Fiction

Carl Sagan's novel *Contact* serves as a masterful example of how science and fiction can be seamlessly intertwined to create a compelling narrative that stimulates both the intellect and the imagination. In this exploration, we delve into the ways Sagan skilfully bridges the realms of science and fiction within the pages of *Contact*, illuminating how he utilizes scientific rigor and speculative storytelling to engage readers in a thought-provoking exploration of humanity's place in the universe.

### **Grounding Speculative Concepts in Scientific Reality**

Sagan's great contributions to space science and physics make him stand out among other novelists in the field. In this book, he starts with theoretical constructs, which include the search for extra-terrestrial intelligence (SETI), wormholes, and interstellar travel that he grounds on established scientific principles and theories. This makes his work more credible, and hence allows readers to immerse themselves fully into it such that they can believe in its fictional nature. For instance, Ellie Arroway who is the main character of the novel is portrayed as a committed radio astronomer whose activities are based on real-world Astorscientists working on extra-terrestrial signal detection devices.

### **Exploring Complex Scientific and Philosophical Themes**

*Contact*, however, tackles a vast number of complicated scientific and philosophical issues that range from the nature of the universe to the possibility of extraterrestrial life as well as the ethical repercussions which scientific development could bring forth. By discussing these weighty subjects through the mouths and acts of characters, Sagan handles them with tact and insight, leaving readers with thought-provoking questions and moral dilemmas. One example is how faith versus doubt is one theme in this novel; it also covers some other topics such as scientific professionalism and ethical obligations of scientists while they are trying to find out more about things. By integrating these concerns within his storytelling, Sagan intends his

audience to think about how greater knowledge through science can impact on individual people or society at large.

### **Inspiring Wonder and Curiosity**

*Contact* is basically a salute to the inquiring nature of people and their insatiable quest for knowledge. Sagan enlivens his narrative with a sense of awe that entices readers to revel at the vastness of space and what remains as puzzles outside it. Sagan fire up readers' imagination on cosmic phenomena, an enchanting subject that makes them meditate over what might be awaiting us somewhere in the depths yet unknown of this universe. This way, he cultivates curiosity and exploration so important beyond the bounds of his novel calling upon readers to follow their personal intellectual journey into uncovering themselves.

### **Fostering Interdisciplinary Dialogue and Collaboration**

Interdisciplinary dialogue, collaboration and contact with the public are promoted by *Contact* as a catalyst, filling the gap between scientists, writers and ordinary people. This is an engaging mixture of scientifically accurate but creatively written book that targets all sorts of readers ranging from science fiction admirers to professional scientists. Sagan's novel invites thinking and interaction through exploring scientific ideas as well as ethical concerns among its readers thus enabling them to realize how these subjects mix up besides just fostering appreciation for the point where literature meets philosophy in science.

*Contact* is an example of how science can be merged with fiction in writing; it takes one on an emotional journey through space that is intellectually demanding. Sagan does this by basing his speculative constructs on actual science, dealing with challenging issues in ways that bring out their complexities, creating curiosity and awe and encouraging interdisciplinarity conversation and cooperation beyond genres into transcendence work which ponders about the universe's greatest enigmas.

### **Ethical and Philosophical Implications in Carl Sagan's *Contact***

Sagan's novel *Contact* is not just a scientific expedition and discovery, but also an examination of the profound ethical and philosophical questions that emerges from humanity's search for knowledge about the universe. Through this exploration, we would look at the ethical and philosophical matters in *Contact* thus revealing Sagan's understanding towards faith, disbelief, scientific honesty as well as consequences of alien contact.

#### **Faith versus Skepticism**

The strife between faith and skepticism is one of the main themes in *Contact* with a special emphasis on how humans attempt to find meaning in what surrounds them. The protagonist of this novel shows that she is scientifically skeptical as she believes only in scientific evidence. Similarly, some characters including a religious philosopher Palmer Joss hold onto faith as a way to give life meaning when there isn't any cosmic meaning. By making these characters come into interaction with each other Sagan also explores the intricate connection between reason and belief thus asking his readers to think about the problem of belief and search for truth in an enormous inexplicable universe.

#### **Scientific Integrity and Ethical Responsibility**

*Contact* is an interesting read that shows the significance of researchers' scientific ethics and integrity when it comes to seeking knowledge. Ellie Arroway and her team members come across hints of non-human intellectuality, which push them into a difficult situation where they have to decide how to disseminate their findings, the consequence of contact and its aftermath on humans. Sagan stresses that in science there must be openness, answerability, as well as responsible guardianship by scientists who can think more broadly than just their academic careers while at work.

#### **Implications of *Contact* with Extra-terrestrial Intelligence**

The possibility of interaction with other beings from different planets gives a rise to innumerable moral and intellectual queries that go through the whole narrative of *Contact*. Sagan considers how contact with an extra-terrestrial civilization could transform human society, shake established notions about life, consciousness and the nature of being. By engaging with these ultimate issues *Contact* invites us to consider where we stand as people in the cosmos and our commitment to Earth as humans.

## Conclusion

*Contact* at its center is a thinking about the search for sense and meaning when life appears heartless. Sagan uses Ellie Arroway's journey to explore mankind's quest for knowledge as an existential search of understanding and connection that guides the human being. In her struggle with what she has gone through, Arroway faces queries concerning who she really is, death or life, as well as the human limits on reason before taking comfort in everything's connectivity and marvel of existence in it. The paper aims at deepening our comprehension about the interconnections between science, technology, and literature in Carl Sagan's *Contact*, providing valuable insights into how literature can reflect and influence our outlooks on the universe and our place within it.

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## ***The Time Machine: Influence on Contemporary***

### **Thought Reflects Philosophical Perspectives on Technology**

**Pramikha S**

#### **Abstract**

The Influence of time machine novels on contemporary thought is profound shaping not just the trajectory of science fiction but also impacting real-world perspectives on technology, ethics, and the nature of time itself. These narratives often explore the consequences of time travel, from the butterfly effect and paradoxes to utopian and dystopian visions of the future, thereby stimulating philosophical debates and inspiring scientific curiosity. By presenting scenarios where characters navigate past and future landscapes, time machine stories encourage readers to ponder the impact of human experiences fosters a boarder understanding of our place within the temporal continuum, urging a reevaluation of our approach to innovation, conservation, and social responsibility. Through their imaginative incidents and speculative premises, time machine novels it serves as a catalyst for exploration in theoretical physics, pushing the boundaries of our understanding of time and space. Moreover, the dream of time travel inspires technological innovation, embodying the human aspiration to transcend existing limitations.

**Keywords:** Philosophical debates, technological innovation, Nature, science fiction, theoretical physics.

#### **Introduction**

The Time Machine fiction identified that “Once a sci-fi plot conceit, time travel fiction has become among the most popular structural devices in contemporary fiction.” There is a distinction to be made between time travel fiction, in the novel they include the physical device such as a time machine fiction. The Time Machine by H.G. Wells, time travel

has been featured in countless speculative fiction novels, television series, and movies in the mainstream media. In fiction, novel's utilizing its concept tend to focus on historical tampering how ostensibly insignificant acts along a timeline can drastically bring change to the present and future, whether they be intentional or inadvertent. Affecting protagonists in different ways, journeying through the time space continuum sometimes will cause colossal impact and other times no change at all. Speculative fiction in general tends to discuss contemporary issues in a poetic, metaphorical way, and time travel enables this process.

### **Technology and Human-Agency**

Time machines represent the pinnacle of technological advancement, raising questions about the relationship between technology and human agency. The Time Machine encompasses a number of issues from that era. While technology can empower the individuals and societies, enabling them to achieve goals and solve problems, human agency is essential in guiding how technology is developed that implemented and used. It involves the conscious choices, intentions, and actions of individuals and groups in shaping the direction and impact of technology on society. Moreover, the relationship between technology and human agency is complex, with both influencing and shaping each other in various ways. *The Time Machine*, novel, the protagonist, known simply as the Time Traveler, creates a machine capable of time travel, demonstrating the power of human ingenuity and scientific exploration. This technology enables him to traverse different time periods, uncovering the future evolution of humanity. Moreover, the novel also explores the limitations of technology and the consequences of human agency. The Time Traveler encounters two distinct species in the distant future: the Eloi, a peaceful but intellectually and physically stagnant race, and the Morlocks, a subterranean species who maintain the machinery and infrastructure but prey on the Eloi. The Eloi represent a society where technological advancements have led to leisure and complacency, while the Morlocks

symbolize the unseen labor and exploitation necessary to sustain such a society. So the Time Traveler's journey, wells prompts readers to consider the ethical implications of technological progress and the importance of human agency in shaping the future.

### **Technological Utopias an Dystopian**

*The Time Machine* novel written during the Industrial Revolution of late Victorian England at the time had a capitalist economy based on the rich people making their money off the backs of poor factory workers. The Time Machine starts off as a deceptive communist utopia that is ultimately revealed to be an exaggerated future vision of capitalist dystopia. In the time traveler have a theme of this course, in this utopia, the ideal form of government was that nothing needed. There were no quarrels because the Eloi were simple minded people without any ambitions or complex wants that couldn't be fulfilled. The protagonist of the novel, described as 'the Time Traveler' is the essential embodiment of the turn of the century with white man. However, the one who displays most of the utopian elements in the story. Whereas the surroundings have biblical parallels and are in many parts beautiful, it is a false surface that only serves to hide or hint at the apocalyptic nature of the story. Utopian literature is the description of the ideal society, the basis for such a society is the prosperity and security for the inhabitants of the world that the author created. so, this type of literature is used as a tool to test and perceive difficult social reform.

### **The Nature of Change and Progress**

*The Time Machine* explores the central theme the nature of change and progress through the lens of time travel. The Time Traveler discovers two distinct races in the future. The Eloi, who live a seemingly idyllic but intellectually and physically degenerate existence above ground, and the Morlocks, who live underground and maintain the machinery that keeps the Eloi's world running, represent a devolution of humanity. The Time Machine have a symbol of human ingenuity and the potential of science and technology. However, the

future worlds the future worlds the Time Traveler witnesses the dying earth under darkening sky, which reflects the scientific understanding of entropy and the eventual heat death of the universe. This black vision serves as a metaphor for the ultimate futility of humanity's efforts at progress has its limits. And the temporal perspective on change can influence the ability to travel through time offers a unique perspective on the nature of change. It emphasizes the transient nature of human achievements and the cyclical patterns of history. The Time Traveler's experiences suggest that with societies and environments undergo constant change, the fundamental aspects of human nature and the challenges we face may remain constant. so The Time Machine wells uses the concept of time travel not just to entertain but to explore the implications of scientific and social progress, Victorian era's optimistic belief in potential for both positive and negative.

## **Conclusion**

The Time Machine on contemporary thought underscores the deep interplay between philosophical debates, technological innovation, theoretical physics, and speculative science fiction. Through the lens of time travel, we confront profound questions about the nature of reality, the limits of human knowledge, and the ethical implications of technological advancement. And the scientific inquiry and technological development and the works like The Time Machine serve as both cautionary tales and sources of inspiration, challenging us to critically examine the philosophical endeavors and their potential impact on humanity and the universe. The novel has the interpret technology as the determining force in this relation of some perspectives are all present in current debates about new technologies. so, the novel focus on the philosophical debates and the natural change progress on the time travel during the Victorian period give the positive and negative based on the social progress.

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